

Temporary controlled float for pound

BY SAMUEL BRITTAN

THE POUND sterling is to float for the time being. There will be an operational lower limit of \$2.38 below which the rate will not be allowed to drop. But this lower limit is designed to reassure sterling area holders. It has been introduced as a matter of tactics rather than policy and could be changed at the Bank of England's discretion.

The Bank of England will intervene at its discretion in the foreign exchange market and around \$2.47, compared with a previous upper intervention point of \$2.42.

The independent British float is one indication that European countries have failed to evolve a unified, or even concerted, response to the Nixon measures on the dollar. When nearly all the foreign exchange market reopened on Monday (traders will find a variety of different national policies in operation, with some countries still fixing their rates against the dollar, some floating, others widening their margins and yet others adopting a two-tier system).

Some governments have still to clarify their exact policies for intervention in the foreign exchange market; and it will thus take some while for a clear pattern to emerge from the present confusion.

Meanwhile, the German mark and Dutch guilder are to continue to float. The Federal Economics Minister, Professor Schiller, has said that a "big change has been missed" by the EEC Ministers. Nevertheless, he believed that Germany's policy of a collective Common Market float was steadily winning support and would be accepted even by France at the next meeting of EEC Finance Ministers on September 13.

France is to operate a two-tier market. There will be a freely floating "financial franc" for capital and tourist transactions. Current transactions,

said to cover 70-75 per cent. of the total, will take place at an official exchange rate, which the French Government is insisting will not be revalued against the dollar.

There appears, however, to be considerable scepticism in Paris financial circles about the viability of these arrangements and there is a widespread belief that the two rates will eventually be brought together in a modest revaluation.

The Belgians are to continue with their existing two-tier system. The commercial rate will initially be on the basis of the old dollar parity. But if there is a major influx of dollars the Belgian franc will be allowed a controlled upward float.

In contrast to the position prevailing in France, there is expected to be little difference between the two rates for the Belgian franc.

The Italians are not expected to adopt a two-tier system, but to widen the margins to about 4 per cent. on either side of the existing dollar parity.

The official Swiss foreign exchange market is to remain closed on Monday. There is a change in the international monetary system over the week end. The Swiss Cabinet is to meet at 8 a.m. on Monday.

But the key to the currency jig-saw puzzle remains the Japanese yen. The biggest world payments disequilibrium is between Japan and the U.S. There is a strong and growing expectation that the Japanese will agree to a revaluation or upward floating of the yen.

The Japanese are, however, also formidable industrial competitors of many European countries; and the larger the appreciation of the yen, the greater the chance that those European countries, such as France, which are now dragging their feet, will eventually agree to take part in a currency realignment against the dollar.

The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, M. Pierre Paul Schweitzer, has called to Fund members expressing great concern at recent developments. He fears "disorder and discrimination in currency and trade relationships" unless the opportunity is taken, to strengthen the international monetary system.

It is known that M. Schweitzer believes that parity changes are necessary and that he favours widening of the currency bands to 2-3 per cent. on either side of "fixed" parities.

Efforts to call an early meeting of the Group of Ten Finance Ministers have failed; and they are not expected to gather until September 15. But there is some hope that when the dust is blown up by recent exchanges has settled, a meeting of the Group

of Ten at "Deputies" level (for which the Americans have called) may be convened to prepare the ground for their Ministerial superiors.

Indeed, Central Bank "hot lines" are already in operation to try to minimise possible conflicts in the market intervention policies of different countries and to prevent excessive distortions in the exchange markets.

European central bankers will also be meeting formally in Paris in the middle of next week. This will be at the Board of the European Monetary Agreement; and the meeting will be chaired by M. Alexandre Hays, deputy governor of the Swiss National Bank.

"Floating rates" in the present context means that the prices of currencies against each other will be settled by the forces of supply and demand in the market place. But national authorities will themselves enter the market in an attempt to prevent excessive fluctuations and perhaps also to influence the course of the rates. Consultations will therefore be necessary to prevent violent clashes of national objectives.

It will clearly take time for foreign exchange markets to get used to the new pattern and fairly wide differences between buying and selling rates may be expected at first. On the other hand, the movement of many exchange rates is not expected to be spectacular.

At the other end of the scale three of the blocks attracted only one bid, and each of these went to a relatively unknown Canadian independent concern, Chief Development Company.

The company, which bid for 13 of the 15 blocks on offer, found itself the only applicant for block 21/14 off Aberdeen at only £3,200; for block 21/7 at £4,800 and for 48/12-13b at £8,000.

"It was really a trial run at the U.K.'s regulations and bidding system," Mr. Stanley A. Milner, president of the company, said afterwards. "We decided on the amount of money which we were prepared to pay in the auction and then graded all the blocks in order of interest."

Most of the bidding, however, was dominated by the more experienced exploration groups in the North Sea, such as BP, Phillips, Total, Mobil, Amoco and Conoco.

Their main interest concentrated on the Scottish waters near existing oil finds and on the diagonal trend line which moves north-west from Phillips' discovery of the giant Ekofisk field in Norwegian waters.

Block 9/13, which lies west of the discovery of oil by Shell-Esso and a more recent major gas find at Frigg in Norwegian waters, attracted 17 bids, the majority of which were for well over £1m.

The highest bid for it, at over £5.5m, came from a group of U.S. companies headed by Mobil

15 N. Sea blocks yield £37m.

BY ADRIAN HAMILTON

THE 15 blocks put up for competitive tender in the U.K. North Sea fetched a total of over £37m. yesterday afternoon in the first Alaska-style auction ever held in Europe.

Each of the bids was opened in turn at a special ceremony at the Department of Trade and Industry, and by the end of the afternoon a total of 31 groups representing 73 companies on both sides of the Atlantic, had offered more than £135.5m. for what has become one of the most promising oil exploration areas in the world.

The most eagerly sought-after block of the auction proved to be one of the most northern, block 21/21 north-east of the Orkneys, which went for an unexpected £21m. to the Shell-Esso group.

The sum, which was over £12.5m. higher than the next largest offer for the same block and brought looks of astonishment to the members of the Government, is an indication of the group's long-held faith in the northern areas.

No results yet

While the water depth in the area is over 400 feet and the weather conditions extremely difficult, it lies near where Shell-Esso has drilled a recent well. No results of the well, on block 21/19, have been released, but it is known to have been sited on an extremely large structure, and it is this which probably induced the block to attract over half the total amount put forward in the round's bid.

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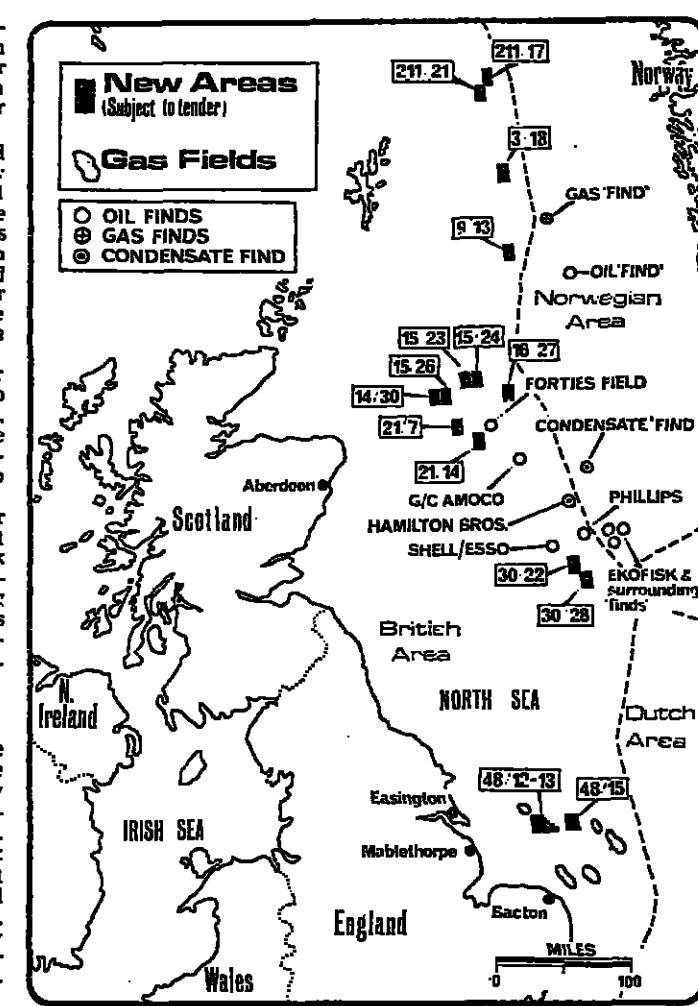
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The new areas up for tender yesterday shown in relation to existing finds of oil, gas and condensate.

and including Amerada, Texas Eastern and the Gas Council. The Gas Council was also part of another successful group headed by Texas Eastern and including Amoco and Amerada, which offered just over £1m. for block 30/22, just south of two oil finds by the Phillips group and Shell-Esso.

Other sizeable bids were made for 15/23, for which Texaco offered just over £1.1m.; for block 14/30, which attracted £553,000 from a group headed by the French Total company and including some investment institutions such as the National Westminster Bank.

Total, which has been drilling an exploratory well north-east of the Orkneys for some months, also proved the highest bidder for a block near that well, 3/18, with an offer of £51,000.

For the same amount it also put in the highest bid for the most northerly block on offer, 21/17. In both these applications the Total group was joined by the recently-formed Scottish oil investment consortium, Pict Petroleum.

The Phillips group, which was at the first to discover commercial quantities of oil in the North Sea, proved a successful bidder, at £637,666, for block 16/27.

BP, which joined in partnership with the German national oil group, Deminor, for the auction, offered a total of nearly £8m. for three blocks and was successful, at nearly £3.4m., in an offer for 15/26, some 20 miles

Possible conclusions Page 22

News Summary

GENERAL BUSINESS

Lynch strikes back

Premier Lynch, in a long-awaited statement, yesterday rejected Mr. Ulster's assertion that Ulster's civil troubles were none of the Government's business. However, this latest communication produced no reaction in London, where there were signs of a more conciliatory mood. Thursday's angry exchange of telegrams, Mr. Heath did not reply to the Premier's and the meeting of the Cabinet was postponed until October 21.

Recall House

Meanwhile, the Westminster Government was facing a new prospect of a break in bipartisan policy with the situation, which yesterday renewed its call for amendment to be summoned to face the situation for two days in the first week of September. Belfast, the Stormont Government was showing increasing concern at continuing demands for public appointments by prominent Catholics. Sir Harry Tuzo met a delegation in London yesterday and underlined the Government's position at points by them, including calls for independent inquiry into Army brutality. Back Page 23

Ita moves

Carrington is to return to his job after more talks with Malta Premier Mintoff on arms for Britain's continued military facilities there. 15

b federation

Establishment of the Egyptian-Syrian federation was proclaimed at the end of the Damascus summit. Page 23

fly

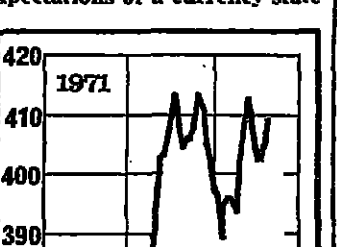
Arthur, Chancellor of the Exchequer, left London to join his holiday in Corsica. William Calley's life sentence for killing 22 Vietnamese civilians at My Lai was reduced to 30 years. Charles received his pardon in a ceremony at RAF Cranwell. Rain prevented play in the Test at the Oval. Page 21

formally declared it would be represented in any conference in the UN if Taiwan could be represented in any conference. Page 23

mag by a wasp a week ago hospital at Hemel Hempstead. Page 23

Equities and gilts move up

● EQUITIES AND GILTS improved in London on hope of a possible Bank Rate cut and expectations of a currency statement.



ment. Equities index ended 4.3 up at 409.4, which was 3.2 down on the week. Gilts closed at gains ranging to 1 1/2 in medians.

● GOLD lost 5c at \$43.30.

● TREASURY BILL rate rose to 10.136 pc to £5.8288 pc. Page 22

● WALL STREET was quieter; the index ended 0.14 up at 880.91.

● OTHER OVERSEAS stock exchanges were less unsettled.

● GOVERNMENT MOVES on the US expected over the next fortnight following Sir John Eden's Glasgow visit. The "embryo" Board of a new Government-backed company based on the Govan-Linthoix complex is likely to be announced early next month. Back Page

● ON THE RB-211 ENGINE any formal protest to the U.S. Government would have to come first from Lockheed Aircraft, in Whitehall's view. Page 20

● BSC's PORT TALBOT steel plant is to have to close next Thursday if the 2,000 white-collar workers on unofficial strike refuse to return, they were warned yesterday. The strikers are to meet on Tuesday. Page 15

● JOHN PETERS (Furnishings Stores), with record pre-tax profit of £1.04m. (£2.82m.) is to pay a final 15 per cent. making 19 (17). A one-for-five scrip issue is proposed. Page 16; Lex.

● F.T. INDUSTRIAL ORDINARY share index will from Monday be available hourly seven times a day instead of four. The index figures will be included in the F.T. Business News Summary telephone service on (01) 248 5626. Back Page

Disillusion in Brussels

BY ROBERT MAUTHNER, EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT

BRUSSELS, August 20.

THE reaction in Brussels to-day to the failure of the Six to adopt a common position on the international monetary crisis was one of undisguised consternation and disillusion.

In European Commission circles particularly it was felt that the Six had lost a great opportunity not only to take a firm step forward towards the creation of a European monetary union, but to make a positive contribution to a reform of the international monetary system.

Dr. Sicco Mansholt, the veteran Dutch Vice-President of the Commission, said so in no uncertain terms at the end of the meeting in the early hours of this morning. But his words were also echoed by several Ministers of the member States, particularly those of Benelux.

M. Gaston Eyskens, the Belgian Prime Minister, declared after a special meeting of the Belgian Cabinet this morning that it was no use hiding the fact that the meeting had been a failure.

Only Signor Mario Ferrari-Aggradi, the Italian chairman of the Community's Council of Ministers, tried to put a brave face on the proceedings at a post-conference Press briefing.

He said the Six had preferred to fix the broad lines of action rather than to do something hasty, and was the result of the experience gained would allow them to make progress on September 13, when they are due to meet again.

No-one, however, took this statement at face value, since all the wrangling about details throughout yesterday had made it plain that, until the Six took



Dr. Sicco Mansholt

agreements between France and West Germany at the time of the floating of the D-Mark last May. At the same time, it would be untrue to say that all is lost.

In spite of everything, the discussions did show that everyone present was conscious of the need for the Six to adopt a common position at some time in the near future.

One of the very few positive statements in the communiqué issued after the meeting was that the member States would take a joint initiative at the International Monetary Fund meeting in Washington at the end of September, with a view to a reform of the international monetary system including a realignment of parities.

There is still an outside chance, therefore, that when the effects of the diversified measures which the Six will now take on their Foreign Exchange markets become clearer after the opening of markets next Monday, a joint solution will be easier to find.

For the rest, the communiqué was decidedly thin in content. It merely stated that the members of the Community were authorised either to float freely or to establish two-tier markets for commercial and financial transactions.

The Council had also decided to instruct the Six's Committee of Central Bank Governors and Monetary Committee to make early proposals on intervention measures which would favour a progressive reduction of fluctuations in the margins of Community currencies.

As for the substance of the disagreement which finally led to the breakdown of the discussions, this was still very much the same as it has been all along. In the last resort, it came down to the fact that the French refused to envisage any revaluation of the franc as part of the internal realignment of Community currencies, and that the other five insisted on a system which entailed a joint float.

Continued on Page 25

Rise in cost of living slows

BY DAVID WALKER

THE OFFICIAL cost of living index rose another 0.9 points in July to a peak 155.2 (January, 1963=100) compared with a month earlier.

The latest figure represents the lowest monthly change for some time at 0.58 per cent. against an average of almost double that for the rest of the year.

In June, the index had advanced by 0.7 per cent., the same as in May, following a six-year record jump of 2.1 per cent. the previous month.

On an annual basis, the July figures, published yesterday by the Department of Employment, represents a 10.1 per cent. rise in retail prices since the same month last year.

In June, the equivalent advance had been 10.3 per cent. Despite the apparent slowdown in the rate of increase in the

cost of living—the first for six months—the change between the two months is still more than in any 12-month period in recent times.

It is difficult to draw any conclusions on underlying trends from it, however. Far more significance will attach to the August result, which should be influenced both by the purchase tax reductions at the end of July and any first fruits from the Confederation of British Industry price-pegging initiative.

About 50 per cent. of the items used in compiling the index, according to the C.B.I., should be affected by that. At the same time, Whitehall estimates have given a 0.75 per cent. drop in the index as the likely result of the tax cuts.

In addition, the July figure has to be seen against the background of previous years before the

really rapid onset of price inflation started. Then, seasonal price reductions, particularly on fruit and vegetables, had tended to give a mid-summer lowering of the index, at the least, flattening out of the index.

This July, the only downward movements singled out by the Department of Employment are reductions in the average price of tomatoes and potatoes.

The principal upward changes involved milk, household coal and coke, and newspapers.

THE £ ABROAD

	Close Aug. 20	Close Previous
New York Spot \$2.4624-4626	\$2.4624-4626	
Dr. (1 month) Unavailable	Unavailable	
Dr. (3 months) Unavailable	Unavailable	
Dr. (6 months) Unavailable	Unavailable	
Dr. (12 months) Unavailable	Unavailable	

Courtaulds	131 + 5	Bovril	422 - 21 1/2
Cour Line	135 + 6	Domestic (D.J.)	41 - 4
Daleholme	23 + 4	Halwings	253 - 7
Drakes	217 + 9	Hammond (L.)	100 - 18
First Natl. Finance	345 + 12	Loyds Retailers	271 - 6 1/2
Freemans (London)	156 + 8	Charter Cons.	222 - 15
Harris (M.P.)	205 + 7	Flamersley	125 - 15
Hattersley-Strickland	153 + 8	Hampton Areas	98 - 10
Natl. Westminster Bk.	605 + 10	Poseidon	950 - 50
Peck Winch & Todd	115 + 7	Western Holdings	845 - 20
Royal Insurance	407 + 11	WRIT	770 - 20
Union Discount	415 + 15		
UDT	211 + 9		
Anglo-Bucardian	54 + 8		
British Petroleum	557 + 7		

Assoc. Leisure	11 - 3	U.K. DAILY STOCK INDICES	
		F.T. ACTUARIES	
		Aug. 20	Aug. 19
		135.16	135.16
		135.16	135.16
		135.16	135.16

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The week in London and New York

Equities overcome the uncertainties

A mad Monday

BY JUREK MARTIN

Although the currency upheaval has dominated the front pages this week, it is difficult to be dogmatic about its impact on share prices so far. Indeed,

TOP PERFORMING SHARES IN FOUR WEEKS TO AUGUST 19

	% rise
Property	5.6
Electronics	5.3
Food retailing	4.1
Contracting	3.4
Shipping	2.9

	% fall
All-Share Index	0.8
Motors & Distributors	3.0
Oil	4.0
Wines & Spirits	4.8
Tobacco	4.9
Insurance brokers	7.1
Toys & Games	10.7

since there is little use in speculating about the eventual realignment of parities, it is arguable that the market used the events of the week to rationalise what it would have done anyway. With volume even lower than it had been in the previous couple of weeks, the FT Industrial Index slipped 9.9 points in the first three days, and rallied on Thursday and

Friday to finish with an overall fall of 3.2 points at 409.4.

The underlying trend has been rather weaker, with falls comfortably outnumbering rises even on Thursday, and the FT Actuaries All-Share Index trailing behind the FT Industrial Index over the week.

With the U.S. taking a little over a tenth of total U.K. exports, there is no sense in guessing at the impact on corporate profits until we find out how other currencies are going to settle down against the dollar. Of course, the news meant more for some sectors than for others. The impact on gold and base metal mining shares is discussed elsewhere on this page. As for oils, down 4 per cent. on the week, the fear is that if the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries want to renegotiate their agreements, the companies might find it harder to pass on any extra costs this time round. Countries like Japan, West Germany and Italy were unhappy enough about the last set of price increases, and since then we have had a whole set of bumper oil company profits.

The 10 per cent. surge on U.S. imports will be a trial for these companies, where keen pricing is the key to U.S. sales. BSR was sharply down on the

week, but the big exporters of luxury goods, like Distillers or the pottery companies, escaped with only minor setbacks. Rolls-Royce suppliers were squeezed by the news that the surcharge will apply to the RB-211 engine; granted the surcharge is described as temporary, but the possibility of an extra \$300,000 or so per ship set of three engines—coming after an increase of \$548,000 on the original price negotiated back in 1968—is not going to make the TriStar selling job any easier.

Mining machinery

Among the dreary statistics of falling orders and rising unemployment contained in the latest Little Noddy report on mechanical engineering this week, just one sector—mining machinery—stood out like a beacon. In the last two quarters of 1970, net new orders rose by 1 and 42 per cent. in that order; in the first three months of this year, we now have a 38 per cent. rise which leaves orders in hand up by no less than 61 per cent.

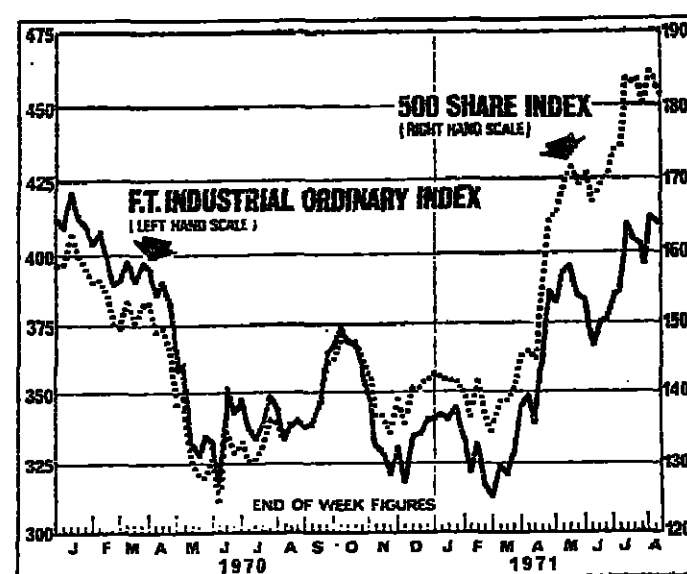
Of course, there is already a rising profits trend among the machinery manufacturers, with Mining Supplies' 1970-71 profits up by nearly two-thirds and Dobson Park forecasting £3.5m.

pre-tax against £2.2m. for the year to October. Moreover, the orders strength is not uniform. Roof supports, Dobson's speciality, are doing very well but Anderson Mavor, which specialises in cutting and conveying machinery, says that although its orders are on a rising trend they do not compare with the industry figures. The final cautionary point is the short production cycles common to the sector, ranging from around a fortnight for Mining Supplies up to perhaps three months for Dobson.

The fact is, however, that Little Noddy is expecting high orders levels both at home and overseas throughout 1971: Mining Supplies' report backed this up over the week with news of a steady rise in turnover so far this year. But the share prices are assuming that the fun is already over, with Mining Supplies on a p/e of 7, a prospective multiple of around 8 for Dobson, and Anderson Mavor, with loss elimination scope worth roughly 84p per share, on an historic p/e of 13 at 95p. Meanwhile, the National Coal Board says that although there are limits to its orders upsurge, demand has moved up to a new level now that the redeployment of equipment from redundant collieries is over.

One extreme of the TV rental problem

Colour t.v. rental has been one of my hobby horses in recent months and there are no apologies for returning to it via British Relay where the basic argument against investment—high initial costs and financing charges—ditto—are emphasised by BRW's low profitability. In the past two years BRW's trading profits have only risen from £5.09m. to £5.43m. which with depreciation and interest up from £3.27m. to £4.22m. leaves a drop from £1.55m. to £1.04m. before a nil tax charge. This year the pressure will be relieved by a cut of around £170,000 in SET but the financing requirements, exaggerated by the abolition of the 40 weeks advance rental, are going to be massive. The cut in dividend from 2.25p a share to only 0.75p, from earnings of 2.04p, will only



go a small part of the way towards meeting BRW's funding needs.

Why, then, should the shares close at 44p last night, a drop of only 2 1/2p on the week? The answer may lie in BRW's low profitability and the thought that major shareholders like Reed and ATV (with a little under 16 and 11 per cent. of the equity respectively) may be thinking of ways to unlock the potential in a cash flow multiple of only 3 1/2. If a buyer cannot be found—and Reed is unlikely to part with its stake at anything near this price—then the answer may be some sort of management initiative from Reed, with ATV's support.

Surprise bid for Henry

Surprise bids have their uses for the security-conscious offeror company; but if you are at the receiving end and the bid is a mere 3p over the market price (56 1/2p)—as United Drapery's offer for A. and S. Henry was this week—then you might be excused for feeling misled about it all. Henry, so far, has kept its cool, merely issuing the usual advice to shareholders to do nothing for the time being. UDS, meanwhile, which said it wanted to prevent speculation, has seen its tactics come slightly unstuck. The Henry share price was 72 1/2p last night and the market argument must go something like this: if UDS was prepared to value John Myers, with a potential £20m. of mail order turnover, at some £16m., then £61m. is short shift for the £10m. of mail order turnover Henry reported in 1970—particularly as it had over £5m. of additional sales in other divisions. Unfortunately, Henry's bargaining power may be limited by a

record of declining earnings over the past five years, and the postal strike which has made rather a mess of the 1971 recovery prospects.

Toy groups after the Lines debacle

Lines' decision this week to go into voluntary liquidation has certainly put the cat among the pigeons in the toy industry. The company, which in 1970 accounted for nearly 30 per cent. of the U.K. companies' share of the home market, has been liquidating its stock position for the past year, a point that has not gone unnoticed by its hard pushed competitors. The fact that this unloading has already been a drag on the toy industry suggests that any new slat of toys forced onto the market—would come as a severe blow.

However, the general feeling from the toy companies is that the various divisions will be split and sold off separately. After all, the strength of Lines brand names and products has never really been in doubt. If this is the line that the liquidator adopts there is unlikely to be any shortage of takers. Mr. J. R. Bentley, chairman of Barclay Securities, has already been quoted as being keen on the Tri-ang and Pedigree ranges while both Heenan Peddew and Dunbee-Combs told the Financial Times yesterday that they were interested in one or two parts of the group. This, of course, is before the presence of the American companies has been considered. It may be, then, that the threat of a flood of stocks coming on to the market is not that acute.

Onlooker

IT WOULD have been pleasant to have been able to write that this was a nice, normal summer week on the Stock Markets, where most of the habits of Wall Street were away concentrating on the really serious things of life, such as their golf swings, or their chrysanthemums or the books they had forgotten to read all year.

President Richard Milhous Nixon, however, completely spoiled that pleasure at nine o'clock, East Coast time, on Sunday night, in that relaxing half hour between the end of dinner and the start of episode three of "The Six Wives of Henry VIII."

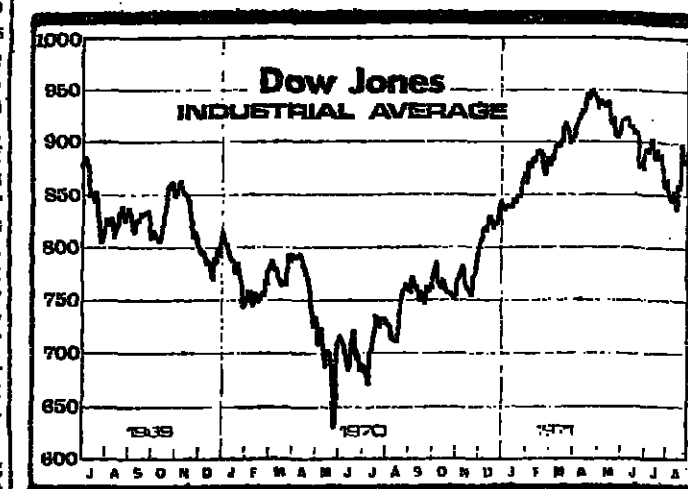
Mr. Nixon, with scant regard for the viewing and digestive habits of the nation, went on television to say all in one great gulp that the dollar-dollar convertibility was being suspended, that there would be a 90-day wage-price freeze, and that there would be all sorts of tax incentives and a 10 per cent. border tax to haul the country out of its economic morass.

As the world now knows, Mr. Nixon sent Wall Street quite mad. Monday was an historic day: it was the 1929 crash, John Kennedy's assassination, on Sunday, Johnson's resignation all over again, rebroadcast in spades. It was very important to realise that Monday was a completely insane

There was some underlying logic in the Monday madness. The shares that were in the greatest demand (in some cases, not possible until Tuesday) were those which would most obviously benefit from the package. This meant generally blue chip, and glamour, and specifically the shares of car companies (in a better competitive position vis-à-vis the imports), textile and steel companies (for the same reason plus other tax bonuses), machine tool companies (whose relations, the market reckoned, could be really damaged by a change in the dollar's parity).

The market, in fact, loved more than 1,500 NYSE shares—it disliked only 107, but this small group of decliners was revealing: it included shares of foreign companies, gold stocks and international oil companies (whose relations, the market reckoned, could be really damaged by a change in the dollar's parity).

The first glimmer of rationality began to return on Tuesday when some serious profit-taking got underway. This was still not enough to deter the general enthusiasm: the Dow went up again, rebounded in spades. It was nearly 11 points, 26m. shares changed hands (the third best Monday was a completely insane



day: all the time-honoured rules and the chart books went flying out of the window. No one knew quite what was happening, except that there was one thing to do—buy, buy, buy and buy again.

It produced the first "30 and 30" day in Wall Street history: the Dow went up 30.93 points, the most ever in one day, while volume soared to 31.73m. shares, another record.

There were few cool heads on Wall Street that day. Assessments of whether the President's plan would work were hard to find. All that seemed to matter is that after 21 years of ineffective fiddling around with the economy he had at last "done something."

To be sure, some of the parts of Mr. Nixon's package were things that Wall Street had come to believe in anyway. But putting them all together, as Mr. Nixon did on Sunday night, was quite simply overwhelming.

most literally minded charlans seemed in the slightest bit disturbed when the Dow failed to penetrate, other than briefly, the 800 mark.

Indeed, now that profit-taking had become a factor, just about everyone predicted that the Dow would drop. The Dow went up again, rebounded in spades. It was nearly 11 points, 26m. shares changed hands (the third best Monday was a completely insane

While on Friday the market steadied before the week-end with the Dow up 0.14 m. to \$20.91, for a net rise of 24.88 on the week. The general public had come out of its hibernation to help the market move things merely along it wasn't a dull week.

MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

	Y'day	Change on Week	1971 High	1971 Low	
F.T. Ind. Ord. Index	409.4	-3.2	413.2	305.3	Uncertainty over currency crisis
Treas. Bt. 'A'	694	+1	694	694	Hopes for Bank Rate cut
Associated Food	91	-19	112	76	Disappointing annual results
BSR	330	-33	386	223	U.S. 10% import surcharge
Botswana RST	210	-40	490	200	Cost estimates rise
British Petroleum	587	-31	628	403	Fears of higher OPEC prices
Buffelfontein	170	-60	330	170	Sharp dividend cut forecast
Drakes	217	+20	222	74	Good "new-time" demand
General Steam Nav.	610	+110	610	420	Revaluation surplus: bid hopes
Henry (A. & S.)	72 1/2	+16	72 1/2	31	Bid from Utd. Drapery Stores
Honda (E.D.R.)	115	-55	177	92	U.S. economic measures
Kier (I. L.)	147	+17	147	78	Hopes of Fleet tube line contract
Lamson Inds.	87	-11	104	77	Disappointing interim results
Lines Bros.	4	-23	43	2	Proposed liquidation
Lucas (Joseph)	253	-15	272	156	No surcharge exemption for RB-211
Reardon Smith 'A'	50	-15	84	50	Reduced int. div. and profits
Royal Ins.	407	+15	407	245	Cheering first-half results
Sony Co.	400	-80	552	240	U.S. economic measures
Yael Reefs	520	-50	585	460	Disappointing bullion price
Wharf Hldgs.	227	+11	247	107	Bid from Sterling Guarantee

MINES IN THE NEWS

Cry no more for metals

BY KENNETH MARSTON

UNCERTAINTY laced, as it often is, with a fair amount of gloom has unsettled both Mining and commodity markets this week following President Nixon's dollar crisis measures. Details of exactly how the measures will be applied are awaited just as in the U.K. a Chancellor's Budget proposals are subsequently made more clear by a Finance Bill. But we can try to get down to brass tacks as far as mining investors are concerned.

The U.S. measures which most affect them are the proposed tax of 10 per cent. on imports into America with the exception of certain oil, food and textile products; the suspension of convertibility of dollars into gold; and the expectation that currencies of certain other countries, notably the U.K. and Japan, will have to be up-valued against the dollar.

Boosting demand

Now the first thing to be borne in mind is that the underlying reason for the fall in base metal prices over the past few months has been the slowing down in the U.S. economy. The country is the world's biggest consumer of metal and when its voracious appetite is allowed to slacken, nickel, platinum, for example, suddenly move from shortage to over-supply and their free-market prices go down accordingly.

On the other hand the country's economy has an underlying strength which is often forgotten when we look at the decidedly shaky dollar. And the latest measures are specifically designed to fan the embers of that economy into bright flames again. There is little doubt that they will succeed to a degree, in the short term anyway, as this week's boom on Wall Street suggests.

Thus American demand for imported metals bids to be increased. The country's imports of manufactured goods, however, will be deterred by the import surcharge. Americans are likely to buy more cars, but they will find it cheaper to plump for those produced in Detroit—which is not very cheering for Volkswagen and all the rest of the exporting car brigade.

But no matter where a car is produced, it still needs metal and whatever the difficulties of the exporters the chances are that world car production which is dominated by the U.S. is likely to show an overall

increase. And this also applies to most other manufactured goods which are demanded by the mighty U.S. market.

Diamonds, too

So there should be increased sales of, for example, Canadian and Australian nickel, Zambian copper, South African platinum and antimony. And in a more buoyant economy the daughters of the U.S., who are not noted for being slow in coming forward, may well nudge their spouses, as they say, in the direction of those emporia which sell South African diamonds.

Let us not be carried away. The extent to which the U.S. economy is going to be refueled remains to be seen. It may not be all that exciting and there is also the question of the coming realignment of currencies, which could take some of the cream off higher base metal prices when they are translated into profits in the currency of the mining companies' headquarters.

You will have noticed that despite what I reckon to be a bullish, rather than a bearish outlook, prices of tin, lead, zinc and copper have fallen this week on the London Metal Exchange. Metal markets are very thin at the moment: engineering works are closed for holidays and transatlantic business is largely cut off from London because with foreign exchange markets closed the overseas traders lack exchange cover.

Consequently, price move-

ments can be exaggerated in nervous conditions. And it has been realised that if the pound is allowed to float it will strengthen against the dollar and therefore a ton of copper, say, will fetch less in pounds here and more in dollars in the U.S. Even so, I still feel that with higher sales the base-metal producers will be better off and this is not the time to sell their shares.

Iron ore fears

The major exception to this is the Australian iron ore industry which relies heavily on the Japanese market. After years of virtually uninterrupted growth the Japanese steel mills have slowed down. One estimate I have heard is that instead of the 110m. tons earlier predicted, this year's steel output in Japan may fall to around 88m. tons from 98m. tons in 1970.

Already feeling dispirited, the Japanese are understandably worried, as a major exporting nation, about the effects of the proposed U.S. import surcharge and the expected revaluation of the Japanese yen; the latter will, of course, mean that after cutting profit margins in order to compete in the U.S. market, Japan's resultant dollar earnings will buy less yen when remitted home.

Contracts for Australian iron ore exports to Japan are priced in U.S. dollars which, depending on how currencies line up, could mean lower earnings in terms of Australian dollars. On the other hand, the Australian

mine's loan repayments are also in U.S. dollars which is a helpful factor.

The big question is whether the Japanese will have to ask the Australians for a reduction in iron ore deliveries, possibly through a stretch-out of contracts as was done with the Canadian uranium producers. Although the U.S. will need more iron ore, there is a huge surplus of capacity in the world and much of it is closer geographically to the U.S. than Australia. So there is not much chance of diverting Australian ore from Japan to the U.S.

Gold enigma

Finally, gold remains something of an enigma. The free market price has been uninspiring this week and the share market has been unsettled by America's comment that gold now has a diminishing role in the world monetary system. But not, apparently, to the point at which U.S. and many other citizens are allowed to purchase it.

If, however, it is now to be regarded largely as a commodity alone—and this is very debatable—the rising industrial uses may well justify the current market price, which is only about 26 per cent. higher than the level fixed back in 1934.

Meanwhile, those who do not share the U.S. view may continue to see Gold as a hedge against the present currency uncertainties and this week's share market shake-out may have gone too far.



An iron ore carrier loads at Damper in Western Australia. Shipments from the Rio Tinto-Zinc group's Hamersley operation now amount to 37.8m. tons in a little over five years. Their value up to end-1970 was \$361m. (£168m.).

TV Radio

* Indicates programme in black and white.

BBC 1

11.30 a.m. Week-end Weather.
11.35 Cricket: Third Test Match, England v India.
12.45 p.m. Grandstand: 12.55 Football Preview: 1.15, 2.20, 2.35, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40, 4.50, 5.00, 5.10, 5.20, 5.30, 5.40, 5.50, 6.00, 6.10, 6.20, 6.30, 6.40, 6.50, 7.00, 7.10, 7.20, 7.30, 7.40, 7.50, 8.00, 8.10, 8.20, 8.30, 8.40, 8.50, 9.00, 9.10, 9.20, 9.30, 9.40, 9.50, 10.00, 10.10, 10.20, 10.30, 10.40, 10.50, 11.00, 11.10, 11.20, 11.30, 11.40, 11.50, 12.00, 12.10, 12.20, 12.30, 12.40, 12.50, 1.00, 1.10, 1.20, 1.30, 1.40, 1.50, 2.00, 2.10, 2.20, 2.30, 2.40, 2.50, 3.00, 3.10, 3.20, 3.30, 3.40, 3.50, 4.00, 4.10, 4.20, 4.30, 4.40,

Your savings and investments

Unit trusts

Overseas funds and the dollar crisis

BY KEITH LEWIS

THE PAST WEEK'S events on the international currency front have had quite an impact on world stock markets. The most notable changes, predictably, have been recorded on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones Industrial index had by yesterday morning risen 5 per cent, since last week-end, and on the Japanese market, where the new SE index plunged 17 per cent.

Violent reactions

Elsewhere, the news has not always sparked off quite such violent reactions. In London, for example, the FT Actuaries All-Share index has receded by roughly 2 per cent, over the period, while in Australia—where it is thought, is bound to suffer from the inevitable switch in Japan's exporting efforts—the Sydney All-Ordinary has come off some 3½ per cent over the past week.

However, compared with what has happened since the start of 1971 the past week's movements have been small fry, and the only investors who have cause for complaint are those tied up in the Australian market: the Sydney All-Ordinary index has fallen back 10 per cent, over the seven months. Over the year, the New York Dow Jones is higher by 5 per cent, the FT Actuaries All-Share index is up by 30 per cent, and the Tokyo SE index is ahead 16 per cent. The implications

for the unitholders in the various overseas funds are therefore varied.

First, although holders of the two authorised Japanese funds—Save and Prosper Japan Growth Fund and M and G Japan Fund—have so far shown no eagerness to bail out, the measures adopted by the U.S. have clearly been designed to have the greatest effect on Japan's trading position.

The numerous fans of Japan are saying that exporters can absorb the 10 per cent surcharge imposed on imports by the U.S. and still remain competitive. On the other hand, impartial observers have been expecting harsh measures from one side or the other for some time now and managers of both of the funds mentioned have been prudent enough to give the large exporting companies a wide berth. In both trusts there is a preponderance of defensive stocks, including banks, insurance, construction and retail stores shares.

One major broker in London has described the reaction by the Tokyo SE—historically volatile at the best of times—as panicky. One problem is the validity of the unit valuation, and one offshore fund trustee in particular is worried that realistic prices cannot be established while the foreign exchange markets are closed. Exchange's reaction suggests that it may be—then the rise in

the market will be an added advantage. Obviously, if the pound were to be devalued in line with the dollar then the situation would be back to square one.

Technical problem

A more technical problem is how the funds with sterling-dollar back-to-back loan facilities are likely to come out of this.

At the moment there are two ways to invest in overseas securities: either through one of these dollar loans or through the investment dollar pool. In the past, when the investment dollar premium has been low it has not been worthwhile to arrange a back-to-back loan since the expense involved is often far greater than the 25 per cent, dollar premium surrender penalty. However, many groups have judged that with the disappearance of the premium a distinct possibility assuming Britain joins the EEC, it is (in the long term at least) more desirable to opt for a dollar loan.

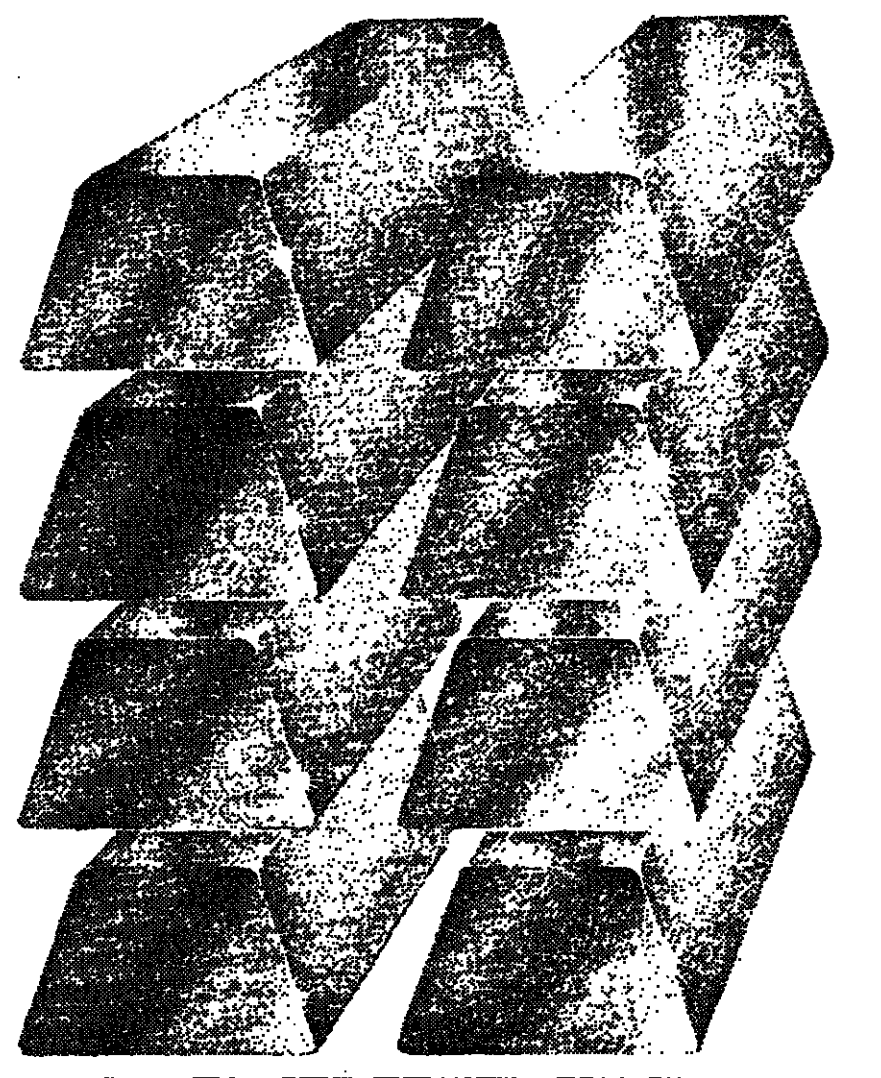
The Bank of England rules that a sterling amount equivalent to the dollar loan at the ruling exchange rate be put on deposit. If an official devaluation of the dollar is in prospect then less sterling will have to be on deposit and therefore more cash will be available for actual investment.

Furthermore, if the latest U.S. economic package is successful—and the New York Stock Exchange's reaction suggests that it may be—then the rise in

the market will be an added advantage. Obviously, if the pound were to be devalued in line with the dollar then the situation would be back to square one. By and large dollar loans are an expensive exercise unless the market is definitely on the way up. It costs approximately 8 per cent, for a dollar loan and a sterling deposit in London attracts interest at 6 per cent. Interest on the loan has to be paid six-monthly out of the proceeds of the investment; any deficit has to be made up out of the capital value of the loan. In other words, one must be sure that the market is on the upward path, otherwise there is an interest deficit to be financed for a start.

Action at this particular point in time is clearly hasty; the drop in the offer price of M and G Japan from 60.8p to 50.8p (a 16 per cent, decline) is fair enough in view of the general market setback, as is the fall of 15 per cent, in S and P's case. While there are still expectations of a Yen revaluation, conditions are bound to be unsettled, but then presumably unitholders in these particular funds were aware of the possibility of a bumpy ride. The other point, of course, is that in the event of a Yen revaluation the Sterling value of the funds will rise and take some of the sting out of Tokyo's set-back.

Gold prospects look good now. Here's how to stake your claim.



The dollar is now firmly on the defensive. The U.S.A. has suggested that the role of gold is to be "diminished". Possibly this remark will prove to be worthy of King Canute. Is it not more likely that the role of the dollar is diminishing?

We believe that the long-term profit opportunities for those who invest in gold shares at the present time are considerably enhanced.

Gold shares, and the mining finance houses which provide their capital, should appreciate due to the greater potential profits of the producing mines. And if the fixed price of gold rises, their profits could be even greater.

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"The point is, and it has been true for some time, not that gold shares represent an outstanding speculation but rather sound value on the reasonable assumption of an increasing free market price."

Jessel Gold & General is managed by Jessel Britannia, one of the top unit trust groups in the country. In the latest Investors Chronicle Review of Unit Trusts, Gold & General appeared in the list of the top ten best performing unit trusts over the five years to 30th June 1971. No less than four of our other funds featured among the top ten over the three years to 30th June, 1971—a proven record of financial expertise.

Gold & General has been a good long-term buy by any standards, but with the current situation, we believe that the chances of capital growth are even better.

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Jessel Gold & General Units are now on offer at 87.8p each to give an estimated current gross yield of 2.84% p.a. until 3 p.m. on 27th August, 1971. To buy, fill in the coupon and post it with your cheque.

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Signature(s) (If there are joint applicants all must sign and attach names and addresses separately.)

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Address

The minimum holding is 100 units and in multiples of 5 thereafter. For your guidance:

100 units cost £ 87.80	1,000 units cost £ 878.00
500 units cost £ 439.00	5,000 units cost £ 4,390.00
100 units cost £ 87.80	1,000 units cost £ 878.00
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Income is distributed twice a year on 29th January and 29th July, and is paid after deduction of income tax at the standard rate. Income tax can be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue if you are entitled to do so. Applications will not be acknowledged, but certificates will be forwarded by the Managers by 15th October, 1971.

A management charge of 2½% is included in the price of units. Out of this the Managers will pay commission of 1½% to authorised agents. There is an annual charge of 1½% of the value of the fund which is deducted from income, and which is already allowed for in the estimated current gross yield. This, our Gross Yield, is 2.84% p.a. until 3 p.m. on 27th August, 1971, but may be closed earlier if the current price differs from the fixed price by 25% or more. After that, units will be available at the daily quoted price published in most newspapers.

You can sell your units back to us at not less than the published price on any dealing day; you will receive a cheque within seven days of the date of the sale. The above rates are for units purchased on or after 1st January, 1971.

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BY STANLEY GUYER AND WILFRID PICKARD

More money is being spent on eating out

AMERICAN visitors to this country have had the novel experience this week of finding the dollar an unwanted currency, and being offered less for it than they had expected. This came as a nasty shock to many of them and could bring some check to the number that annually cross the Atlantic. It is, however, unlikely to bring the tourist boom to a halt as although sterling may become dearer for Americans it could get cheaper for Europeans. And to the extent that European currencies may get dearer in terms of the dollar than sterling it could do this country some good.

Hoteliers and caterers are still likely to operate in a growth industry. Catering has recently been seeing the strong upward trend of demand running at a rate of about 8 per cent.

WHAT THE BROKERS SAY

THE PROPOSED rights issue by BOVIS could provide a buying signal for the shares. After five years of rapid growth, 1971 is likely to be a period of consolidation for the group, leading to renewed expansion in 1972 onwards. That is Greafell and Co.'s assessment of the company and the basis for their recommendation. Of a total turnover amounting to some £97m., construction represented £80m., housing £11m. and property £4m.

Whisky in the U.S. Discussing the impact of the American import surcharge on Scotch whisky sales in the latest of their bulletins, Fielding Newson-Smith is not unduly worried about the adverse effect because the "American consumer is not highly price-sensitive in this market," nor is the broker over-much concerned about the possibility of another longshoremen's strike. More serious in the long term is the growing sale of Canadian whisky in the U.S., which increased last year by 10 per cent, against only 5 per cent, for Scotch; and the impact of the lighter whiskies that will reach maturity next year onwards. DISTILLERS is preferred to IDV.

Quickly off the mark, Myers and Co. issued their assessment of post-Nixon stock markets on Monday. The strongly protectionist measures were necessarily seen as making it harder for British exporters to the U.S., notably cars. But the boost that these measures will give the American economy is already seen to be good for Wall Street and this should have favourable medium-term implications for our own market.

There is a large sale in Europe, which should become increasingly important. The contract with Dupont could bring big expansion in production of herbicides. At 422p the price earnings multiple of 23.4 seems to be taking a long view. But accepting a prospective p/e of 19, and the rosy outlook a higher price appears justified.

Although Thursday's interim from Anchor Chemical produced only a slight improvement in pre-tax profits to £112,800 (£108,800), it appears to mark a turning point from the previous decline. The chairman has reiterated his forecast of a satisfactory increase in earnings for the year.

Progress has been most evident in the new Italian subsidiary, and in Anchor Chemical Developments that takes in plastic blow moulding. A range of improved cost control, and extended capacity under way in the 1967 profit level of £300,000 could be attainable within the next two years. Given a prospective p/e of 16.4 over this time scale the shares are not dear at 82p.

Chemicals in Europe

WITH THE possibility that sterling will not revalue to the same extent as European currencies relative to the dollar, the British chemical industry could ultimately gain from the currency upheavals. Effective devaluation will give U.K. companies an additional competitive edge which will help their expansion in Europe.

The growth rate of chemicals in Britain has been slowed down by the poor economic experience in this country. Assuming entry into the EEC is confirmed the industry should be able to approach Europe's 15 per cent, annual increase against our meagre 5 per cent, level. Clearly over the next few years ICI should move ahead more quickly. As the tariff walls come down feedstocks will be in increasing quantities to U.S. European plants.

Also last year's 36 per cent, growth of exports largely to Europe provided the main source for Yorkshire Chemical's 5 per cent, rise in turnover. In intrast sales in the U.K. were only 20 per cent, higher. The tight control on costs resulted

in wider margins, despite higher costs. And pre-tax profits rose by 47 per cent, to £1.16m.

Formerly called Yorkshire Dyeware and Chemical, the group's interests are mainly in providing dyes for the textile industry. Here its greatest expertise is man-made fibre, where world consumption estimates suggest growth of two and a half times during the present decade. Although the shares have more than doubled this year, with p/e of 16.4 at 230 they are still full of promise.

After a 16 per cent, rise in pre-tax profits in 1970, the pace quickened for Hickson and Welch (Holdings) in the first half of this year when they surged ahead by 31 per cent. The organic chemical side has been progressing well, and the timber preservatives have room for expansion. With the upturn in building activity the construction materials subsidiaries should be experiencing better trading.

Exports are a major area of growth, although the greatest proportion has been to Commonwealth countries. However,

profits by 63 per cent, last year to £343,000. Earnings a share could rise to 1.3p in 1970-1971 as benefits from the Canning and Wildblood acquisition become apparent. At 101p the shares yield 7.6 per cent, and the prospective p/e of 8.5 seems to pay too much attention to the previously declining record and the £133,600 overstatement of profits in previous years.

More generally, George Henderson believes that the time has come for a change of emphasis out of stores, House of Fraser, Sears Holdings, United Drapery and most breweries with Allied and Bass Charrington being particularly vulnerable. The broker suggests switching into selected building, electrical and engineering stocks.

NE OF the select band of companies which are finishing this week higher than they were at Incheape and Co., the erchanting group whose interests spread from the Caribbean to the Far East. An aggressive take-over policy has shed pre-tax profits up more than fivefold in five years and earnings per share from 8p to 3p. The shares are one of

V BRIEF

THE London quotations giving a major stake in the rapidly expanding economies of Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. At 404p the rating is a forward-looking 20 p/e and the yield 2.5 per cent, but is not setting its sights too far ahead. Healthy demand enabled Boardman Marden, manufacturer and importer of textiles and clothing to improve pre-tax

profits by 63 per cent, last year to £343,000. Earnings a share could rise to 1.3p in 1970-1971 as benefits from the Canning and Wildblood acquisition become apparent. At 101p the shares yield 7.6 per cent, and the prospective p/e of 8.5 seems to pay too much attention to the previously declining record and the £133,600 overstatement of profits in previous years.

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AR EAST INVESTMENTS Spotlight on Hong Kong

BY JAY PALMER

THOUGH LAST WEEK'S 4½ per cent, fall in the FT rubber index is the first decisive downward movement for many eeks, it is not all that surprising considering the 15 per cent, drop two weeks ago after Simeby's bid for Seaford. Concerning that even at the rent level the sector is still 135 per cent, above its 1 low (and 58 per cent, above its level a year ago) and ding an all-time low of 8 p, there seems a good chance the present bear reaction is not yet exhausted. Against the tea index moved 'ginally better and the All-re index slipped 4½ per cent, n the whole the U.S. economic measures have had no et effect on either comety shares or prices. With primary products as er, palm oil and wool npt from the 10 per cent, harge in their raw form, general feeling was that the tion would be determined the long-term success or e of the measures in lorating the U.S. economy. The measures do prove a ss—especially in relation e U.S. domestic economy—difficult to see them having ing but a bullish effect on rubber price. American and is probably the single important factor in the al rubber market, so while etic rubber should also ve a boost, the natural r price is likely to go r in the medium-term, will be none too soon given over the past week the has fallen another 1p to a kilo, only 1p above the ar low.

ough the palm oil market een closed since the dollar blew up (the price closed week at £118 a ton), it

seems that the underlying trends are looking stronger. With consumer demand showing a definite trend towards margarine and away from butter, many producers are looking for even higher palm oil prices in the future.

The most immediate dramatic effect of the regulations is likely to hit the wool price. It seems that although last week's Australian budget set out a scheme to insure a minimum return to producers, the U.S. 10 per cent, surcharge will result in a sharp fall off in Japanese demand for wool. So with wooltops 64s warp currently standing at a 25-year low of 89p a kilo, no one is looking for an immediate recovery.

Eastern Asia

Until recently it has been difficult to obtain a stake in the tightly held Eastern Asia Navigation Company, which under the guidance of Hong Kong millionaire Y. K. Pao, has expanded at a remarkable rate in recent years. Indeed the YK group is rapidly emerging as one of the world's largest shipping empires; the present fleet totals some 600,000 dwt tons and vessels under construction (of which a large percentage are Very Large Crude Carriers) will increase this to over 3m. dwt tons by 1975.

All the ships under construction are being built on fixed-price contracts and most of those were negotiated during a period of comparatively low costs. While the majority are being built in Japan, the Board had the foresight to protect themselves against possible yen revaluation by arranging its current charters to insure that sufficient income is received in yen to service all its contract obligations.

In July EAN had a 1 for 4

rights issue and the group of shipping and investment companies headed by Y. K. Pao (who was believed to hold about 90 per cent, of the equity) used part of their increased holding to widen the market in the shares. Under the new arrangements, they will still hold about 65 per cent, of the capital.

The issue was underwritten by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and around 5m. shares have been placed, a substantial part in London, with institutions by three Hong Kong orientated brokers, Astaire, W. I. Carr and Vickers da Costa. London dealings are expected to start next Monday.

The latest results—for 1970-71—show another jump in profits from HK\$17.6m. net to over HK\$21m., an increase of 19.5 per cent. For 1971-72, the group has forecast dividends of 35c a share with another increase to 40c in 1972-73. At the current London price of 60p, the shares look attractive on a historic p/e of about 24 and offering a prospective 1972-73 yield of over 5 per cent.

Merchant traders

London brokers Vickers, da Costa and Co. have produced an excellent review of three Hong Kong merchant traders, Jardine Matheson, Wheelock Marden and Hutchison International. Backed by a mass of information, Vickers conclude that while they "would recommend any of these stocks at the right price" they think there is a good case for switching out of Jardine into Hutchison or Wheelock at the current levels.

Although the roots of the three companies all lie in trading, they have in recent years branched out in different ways. Jardines has an extremely strong hold on HK business companies.

activity with interests extending throughout the whole business spectrum. Recently, however, the group has also concentrated on other parts of the Pacific—especially Australia. Wheelock Marden has tended to move away from its conventional trading base, concentrating on highly technical products with strong back-up organisation. Hutchison is a comparative newcomer to the scene and to date its interests have been focused on Hong Kong as a matter of deliberate policy.

Looking at the respective earnings figures of the three companies, one is struck by the consistency of growth from Jardine, the absence of growth from Wheelock and the recent surge in Hutchison. Even with the lack of uniformity, all three companies have a good deal of potential left. Vickers suggest that Jardine will achieve a 15 per cent, per annum growth over the next few years. Wheelock will more than treble profits before 1975 and Hutchison will maintain a 20 per cent, compound growth over the next three years. On this basis and imposing a political discount on the market ratings in spite of HK's investment climate favouring quick returns, Vickers conclude that Jardines is over-priced, Wheelocks is slightly undervalued and Hutchisons is cheap.

Perhaps the only immediate criticism that can be levelled at the review is that with all three companies share prices high in historical terms, Vickers may have missed the best. If, however, one accepts—if only as matter of illogical faith—that the Hong Kong economy will more or less continue to match its previous record of growth, then there could be a good deal of potential left in all three companies.

Finance and the family

Policy for deceased wife

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

I took out a life assurance policy naming my wife as beneficiary. She has since died and I have remarried. (a) Should I take any action, and if so, what? (b) What would happen if I took no action, that is, if I had died without it having been pointed out to me that my first wife had been named in the policy?

If, as we assume to have been the case, the policy was effected under the Married Women's Property Act, then the position is that the policy moneys form part of her estate, and must be dealt with by her personal representative. This may very well be you, but, of course, need not be. In any event the ultimate proceeds will pass under her will, or intestacy, as the case may be.

If you are entitled to the benefit of policy under your wife's will or intestacy you can, if you wish, take the action of assigning it to your present wife.

The situation is in no way altered by the fact that it might not have been pointed out to you before you died—the destination of the moneys would be the same.

Money kept by solicitor

My son sold his house in Scotland and on completion received the purchase price, less £300, his solicitor retaining it, he said, in case he should be unable within 3 months to deliver certificates, from the over-superior under fee disposition, from the immediate superior under fee disposition and from a neighbouring proprietor that the boundary fences are in good condition. Is this in order?

We do not understand what exactly the obligations in the title are or why your son has to fulfil them. If the solicitor fears the possibility of a claim in the future he still has no right to retain your son's money. In any event, if any future claim is made against your son, the obligation being his, the solicitor can have no cause to retain money, while if the claim may be made against the solicitor,

the obligation being his he must pay himself. Even if the solicitor could be liable but have a right of relief against your son that does not give him the right to retain money belonging to your son in anticipation.

Raising false hopes

Is it possible to take legal action against estate agents who allow signboards to remain outside vacant properties with prices on them far below those now current?

No, we do not consider that there is any legal remedy for such a situation. It is not fraudulent misrepresentation, because they do not get you to do anything on the strength of it; obviously, the information raises your hopes, but this (and the subsequent let down) is not a matter of which the law takes cognizance.

More than one trustee

Following the death of a trustee of an estate in which my wife has a life interest, the remaining trustee proposes to carry on alone, although he is a remainderman. If this is permissible should the other beneficiaries call for annual audits of the accounts and inspection of the assets?

The answer to your question is

in the affirmative. But a single trustee—whether he is, beneficiary or not—should not be left. He should be requested to appoint another trustee to act with him, and if he will not do so an application should be made to the Court for the appointment of an additional trustee to act with him—or for his replacement by two other trustees. What use would an audit be if he has previously skipped with the funds? If there were two trustees the possibility of doing this would be enormously reduced. It is for this reason that the law in most cases requires two trustees, or a trust corporation.

A profit on a house

I decided to buy a new house and deposited £50 with the property company, but I shall not now require it when finished at the end of the year. Meantime, the price of the next phase to new buyers has risen by £400 and seems likely to go higher. Can you suggest any short cut to making a profit out of this situation?

It is impossible to advise you fully without a sight of the documentation under which you have paid your £50. But if there is any "short cut" such as you require, it can only lie in assigning your rights against the property company to a third person, who would pay you for the assignment. Whether you have any such assignable rights

we cannot say without a sight of the documentation. The next "short cut" would be to enter into the contract, and then assign the benefit of the contract. The difficulty here is, of course, timing: you might well be called upon to fulfil your own contract (and have to do so against forfeiture of the deposit) before you had actually found a person willing to take the assignment.

Transfers on a 50p stamp

Can you tell me under what circumstances shares left by a testator can be transferred to people who benefit by his will, without payment of ad valorem stamp duty?

If either (a) a person is left stated securities or (b) the securities are taken as part of the residue or (c) they are appropriated by the executors to answer a pecuniary legacy under a power of appropriation not requiring the consent of the legatee, only a 50p stamp is required on the transfer.

Getting rid of a trustee

I made a settlement in favour of my grandchildren and appointed their parents trustees. The deed provides that "the power of appointing a new trustee or new trustees hereof shall be rested in the

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settler during his lifetime." Is there any way I can get rid of one of the trustees, and if not can I appoint two new trustees to give power to any three to act without the fourth?

You have a power of appointing new trustees, not a power of removal. Equally you have no power to impose any conditions such as you envisage when you appoint new trustees. Accordingly, all you can do is to appoint two new trustees to act with the existing two. If the trustees cannot agree, then they will have to apply to the Court for directions, or some person interested in the trust will have to apply to the Court for the removal of one, or both, existing trustees.

Qualifications for a pension

I am 46. I paid National Insurance contributions as an employee for 10 years, as self-employed for 5 years and as non-employed for the last 8 years, but I cannot discover whether I shall get a pension. Would buying a self-employed stamp qualify me, or would a non-employed one achieve the same result?

In order to qualify for full national insurance pension you have to achieve during your working life an average of 50 stamps per year. A working life is taken as being from the age of 18 to the age in the case of men 65 and in the case of women 60. For those who were on July 5, 1948 over 18 the working life is taken as the period from July 5, 1948 to the age of 60 or 65 as appropriate. It would seem from the information that you give us, that if the cards so far submitted for you have been stamped in full that is to say 52 stamps on each card and that you proceed for the next 19 years until your 65th birthday to stamp your cards with a class III non-employed stamp that you will then qualify for a full pension. Should you at any time take up employment or commence self-employment, then you should insure that the correct class of stamp is affixed either by the employer or in the case of self-employment by yourself.

Insurance

Preserving life policies

BY JOHN PHILIP

EVEN if the purchaser is clear as to the reasons why he wants life assurance—for protection of dependants, for collateral for a house purchase loan, for saving for retirement, simply for investment, or for some combination of all or any of these purposes—he must appreciate that a life assurance contract is a long-term undertaking, and that much can happen in subsequent years to upset the purchaser's original calculations.

Family and financial circumstances can change almost beyond recognition. The purchaser may not need his policies or may wish to make substantial alterations. Or his personal circumstances may be such that for a time he completely overlooks the need to keep up his life premiums—as did a reader who wrote to me recently.

Reinstatement

He had a 25-year with-profits endowment, on which he had paid ten years' premiums; family affairs had taken him abroad for many months; when he returned home he found his annual life premium notice and realised he was some six months late in paying his premium.

To his question: "Will insurers reinstate the policy?" the answer is almost certainly "yes," but less certain are the terms on which such reinstatement will be made, for there is a fair divergence of opinion among insurers on this subject.

In the majority of life assurance contracts (other than those of a temporary character), there are clauses built in by insurers to ensure that such policies are kept alive despite non-payment of premiums. But there are no such clauses to be found in term assurances, including mortgage protection, family income, and gift-inter vivos policies. Once the premium on a term assurance remains unpaid beyond the due date, the cover lapses. The practice on all life policies is to allow a month's grace where the premium is payable annu-

ally, but no more than 15 days for quarterly or more frequent instalments.

Term assurances apart, almost every policy has a lapse and revival clause, which usually begins with the statement that the policy will lapse if the premium is not paid at the due date or within the days of grace and if the policy has not by then acquired any surrender value. (I will come back to this point later). The clause then goes on to declare that despite such lapse the policy can be revived within the subsequent year if the policyholder pays the back premium plus interest thereon at the insurer's specified rate, and if the life assured is still healthy enough to continue to obtain and enjoy life assurance on the terms afforded him prior to the lapse. In other words, reinstatement may not be possible if in the interim for example the life assured has sustained a coronary.

Once only

Normally this is a once only clause, so the life assured should not make a habit of failing to pay his premiums. Moreover, for practical purposes it operates only in the early years of the policy—with most companies, only in the first two or three years. The reason is that when a policy has been in existence long enough to acquire a surrender value sufficient to pay at least one year's premium—and this point of time varies from one contract to another, from one insurer to the next—the non-forfeiture clause usually comes into operation. There is no standard non-forfeiture clause, but the purpose of all such clauses is to keep the policy alive, at least for a year and more often for so long as there is sufficient surrender value in the policy to pay the premiums.

Practice has changed over the years and I think there are now relatively few policies which insurers undertake to keep alive for only one year: but of those that do, at the end of that time, there are two schools of thought. One is to employ the surrender value to create a free paid up policy payable at the same maturity date as the original or at the death of the life assured as the case may be.

The other is to hold the remaining balance to the policyholder's credit for a specified period.

But modern practice normally is to maintain the policy for as long as the surrender value can provide the means. How long depends on the size of the surrender value in relation to the annual premiums and the period of premium payment remaining. Thus it is possible for a 25-year endowment to be kept alive to maturity from the 20th year but probably not from the 10th, unless it carries a high guaranteed surrender value in its early years.

So long as the policy is still in existence, the premiums paid out of the surrender value, together with the interest charged thereon, are counted as a debt on the policy, which must be set against the original sum assured in the event of a claim for death or on maturity. Interest is charged because in essence the use of the surrender value amounts to a loan on the policy.

At first sight the policyholder who relies on his non-forfeiture clause might appear to be in the same situation as his neighbour who positively borrows on the surrender value of the policy to pay the premium. But their tax positions are entirely different; for it is only the latter who can claim income tax relief in respect of his premiums.

A lifebelt

For this reason it is still a better proposition for the policyholder who falls on hard times to borrow to keep his policy going, provided he still has some income against which to claim tax relief. The non-forfeiture clause is, so to speak, a lifebelt supplied by insurers which is for the inadvertent but which it is usually better not to use intentionally.

Anyone with whole of life or endowment cover whose financial or personal circumstances are drastically and irrevocably changed has two positive courses of action—either to ask his insurers to provide him with a policy for a reduced sum assured on terms similar to those already agreed but with no more premiums payable, or to surrender his policy for cash. The individual's particular circumstances must dictate which course he takes, but surrender is only rarely the better one.

PERSONAL

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Motoring



Saab, Audi, BMW

Rivals to the 2-litres

BY JAMES ENSOR

THE IDEA that there could be a market for cars smaller than the traditional quality saloons but with more performance was first developed by Alfa Romeo. The company first became a serious car producer with the Giulietta, a very small, well-informed car with a striking performance. Later BMW developed a flourishing business with the BMW 1500 and for a time became the fastest-growing car company in Europe through its success. Demand for small, sporty cars has been developing much more rapidly than for the large saloons.

In Britain, the main contenders are the Alfa Romeo Giulietta, the BMW 1600 and the Audi 100 LS. The Saab 900, with its 1850 cc engine, comes into a slightly different category, since it stresses safety and solid construction more than sporting performance. But it is sufficiently similar to attract the same type of buyer and they make an interesting comparison.

They are all priced a little lower than the Rover 2000 and start from the Saab, just over the Triumph 2000. None of the four foreign cars, in my opinion, matches the interior finish and style of the Rover. The smoothness of the Alfa Romeo's six-cylinder engine is, however, smaller externally and are more convenient to drive and park in crowded city streets. Most of them also offer a better performance than the British two-litres.

Clearly there is a market for cars that are smaller and nippier than the Triumph 2000, for both Audi and the small BMW have been remarkably successful in Britain in the past two years. Unfortunately there is

	Top Acceleration	Speed	Weight	Fuel	Price	Replacement
	0-100	m.p.h.	cwt	m.p.g.	£	cost £
Alfa Giulietta Super	10.2	110	19	23	28-30	1,577
Audi 100 LS	10.0	106	19	23	28-30	1,627
BMW 1600	9.0	103	19	25	30-32	1,626
Saab 900 1850	8.6	96	20	25	26-28	1,479

is a very lively performance which is well matched by its stable handling characteristics. It does not particularly feel like a front-wheel-drive car but clearly contributes to its excellent roadholding.

The automatic version, which I drove, is particularly attractive because of the gear change which can be used as flexibly as a manual one. You can change down for corners and providing you allow for a slight delay, the automatic could be driven just like a manual car. The Audi's success, which has entirely changed the fortunes of Audi-NSU, seems well justified. Its low price makes it a genuine rival to the British two litres, if you are prepared to sacrifice a little interior luxury for performance.

Golf

A hot seat for Jacobs

BY BEN WRIGHT

AS A constant critic of the management of tournaments by the Professional Golfers' Association I can only greet the appointment of John Jacobs as the Tournament Director-General as a stroke of genius that has come about in the nick of time to save an ailing circuit.

The first reaction to the appointment from several people to whom I spoke this week was that it revived happy memories of the only similar venture in recent years, when Brian Park was given a free hand to find new sponsors. But this was a cynical and unworthy comparison. Park, now retired to Jersey, sold out his family business in Wigan and retired while a comparatively young man, and offered to help out PGA in his spare time in an honorary capacity.

Memorable event

Those who remember Park's sponsorship and underwriting of the very successful 1965 Ryder Cup match will remember the flair with which he staged-managed that memorable occasion at Royal Birkdale. But persuading hard-bitten businessmen to part with large sums of money to invest in tournament golf as a publicity vehicle is a different matter, as I have discovered, and Park came up with next to nothing.

Jacobs is settling himself in as not a seat as that occupied by the managers of most Third and Fourth Division football clubs. These latter unfortunately are under constant pressure somehow to achieve success with a motley collection of promising players and has been—or else, Jacobs is not exactly embarrassed by the wealth of talent available on the British tour at present in trying to sell his package. But his appointment is for a three year period, and present indications are that the annual crop of the best young professionals gets better and better.

Tournament players now asked to pay an annual subscription of £30 instead of £5 are bound to expect positive, if not immediate, results from a man paid £5,000 per annum for an agreed 50 per cent of his time. The significant facet of Jacobs's appointment is that the other 50 per cent is wholly devoted to golf and not to conflicting interests.

Jacobs is in contact with big businessmen all the time in the capacity as the supervisor of a chain of driving ranges and par three courses bearing his name and owned by the Greyhound Racing Association—the only successful organisation of this nature in Britain. Jacobs's coaching extends to the far corners of Europe, where he is even retained to instruct the professionals of more than one country, so exalted is his reputation in this field.

The promise of a free playing lesson from Jacobs could well soften up the most hard-headed of tycoons, many of whom in my experience have been totally obsessed by their inability to improve their own golf at the same speed as they make their profits.

Advisory council

Jacobs will be responsible only to the PGA's three-man advisory council of businessmen. The existing constitution of the Association decrees that an extraordinary general meeting must be convened so that a further three-man committee of tournament players can be elected to assist him in his considerable task.

Since Jacobs has to set up an office and employ full time secretaries out of his £5,000 it can be seen immediately that it is the PGA who have secured a bargain. The employment of a man widely respected in the game rather than a public relations "whizz kid" seems an eminently wise move to me. Jacobs has many contacts in Europe, to which area his responsibilities extend, and is highly thought of there. If anyone can sort out the various continental golfing authorities I fancy it is this soft-spoken, very determined Yorkshireman.

What was also healthy about

Bridge

A couple of six-shooters

BY E. P. C. COTTER

SLAM HANDS are fascinating for many reasons. Sometimes the interest lies in the bidding, sometimes in the play. My first hand today is from the Open Pairs of the International tournament held earlier this year. North-South were vulnerable when my partner in the East dealt the cards as below:

N.	E.
♠ A K Q	♠ K 5
♥ K 9 5 4	♥ Q 9 3
♦ A 9	♦ Q 7 6 5 2
♣ K J 7 6	♣ K 7 3

After two passes prospects for our side seemed gloomy, so I decided to open the bidding with a psychic one diamond. This was doubled by North, my partner put in a bid of one heart, and South bid two spades. North now introduced Blackwood, and finding that his partner had one Ace, bid the small slam in spades.

I led the King of diamonds, which was taken by the Ace, and the declarer made a brave try for his contract by leading a small heart from the table. If East ducks, South can get home after ruffing a diamond in dummy. My partner, however, went up with the Ace and returned a diamond to defeat the contract. This result gave us a nice bundle of match points.

South was not amused, for there is nothing worse than playing a slam in the wrong suit. I think that North's Blackwood was on this occasion, as it is on so many others, the wrong bid. A cue bid of three diamonds would have been far better. This would have elicited from South a response of four clubs, and a final contract of six clubs would have been reached.

This contract can be made, though against a diamond lead it requires very careful play. The Ace of diamonds wins the first trick, and exactly two rounds of trumps must be played, followed by the three

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How to spend it

Cassettes and cartridges listed

But what on earth can you play on it? I've never heard anything but Henry Mancini, said a friend when I made him sit and listen to the tone of a cartridge player I had on temporary trial. So I posted a Schubert cartridge.

He's not the only one who believes that everything is still cut only on those plate-like, circular discs. In fact, there are now something like 50 brand names in cassettes, with new titles rushing on to the market monthly.

Sickness insurance abroad

A friend of a friend got smashed up in Spain, with a long, long illness as the result. The cost has been astronomical, and the young lady's life temporarily rather blighted by the whole incident.

BUFA offers short-term extra cover to augment normal BUPA benefits. You can buy £1,000 of extra protection for medical care abroad, and it will cost you £2 a head for 28 days. My goodness, how well worth while, and it is all done so easily with vouchers.

Discount discs

Discs at a discount is the service offered by a company which sells leading brand-name discs by direct mail. Actually, the company has two services. One sells records at reduced prices—like £3 for a disc normally retailing at £3.49, or £2.80 for a disc selling at £3.25; and

Published monthly, it is called simply "The New Cassettes"

although it includes cartridge releases. The price is 5p but, if your bookseller hasn't got it, make sure with a direct subscription of 90p per year to cover cost and the postage which, nowadays, comes so near to the price of the magazine.

The address is Francis Antony of 20, East Hill, St Austell, Cornwall. The books are cross-referenced under Ballet, Pop and all that jazz. The same firm publishes "The New Records," monthly and "New Singles," weekly. All are worth having by any music fan.

I never cease to be amazed at the BUPA services which grow all the time. Private nursing for homes, schools, hotels, industrial organisations and anywhere is often useful (there's a leaflet on the subject).

If you want to know more about it, the address is Provident House, Essex Street, London, WC2R 3AX, and there are a good many branches too.



A line-up of Merrydown wines makes a nicely appetising, attractive picture. That is not, however, the only reason for using it. Bringing Merrydown's English fruit wines to your attention is the main reason—some of you may have seen the Merrydown vineyard on TV on Wednesday night of this week.

I have been trying out their wines. Years ago, when I was rather broke, and when the long, hot summer of 1959 induced outdoor living with chilled wine, I fell for inexpensive Merrydown Apple Wine. By coincidence, my father bought a house next to the Merrydown headquarters, Horam Manor. Even after some arguments about the smell of rotting fruit between my father and the Merrydowns, later happily resolved, I continued to drink the Apple Wine. Then I forgot all about it.

Now the Merrydown wines are not so noted for cheapness, thanks to revenues. But they are different, and one gets the nice feeling that they are doing one good. Gooseberry is a good one, and Redcurrant is very good. Elderberry is fun to serve and to talk about. Bluberry is delicious, and I rather like Orange, Cherry and White Currant. The thing about them is that people argue, and that no two people in a smallish gathering seem to agree on what they like.

Prices are around 65p to 72p the bottle. All the wines are 22 per cent. proof spirit—Cherry and Ginger being the exceptions at 24.5 per cent. proof.

For home winemakers—and my daughter gets excellent results in French wines with concentrates from Southern Vineyards, of Hove, Sussex—Merrydown is doing Mead and Apple Juice. I have smelled the mead in fermentation and it is redolent of the honey already. The 40-ounce bottle (to make 2½ gallons of mead) sells at 95p. The gallon jar (to make 10 gallons) costs £3.40. Prices for the Winemakers' Apple Juice, Martlet W.A.J., are the same. Fermentation takes 5 to 8 weeks and the resulting wine will be about 21 per cent. proof spirit.

Before bidding farewell to the Merrydowns, I do want to congratulate them on the Martlet vinegars. Honey vinegar, for which I haven't quite discovered a specific use although I am sure there is one. It tastes good. The Cider and Apple Juice Vinegars are delicious in dressings, on their own or with oil, and at any other time you would use this kind of fruit vinegar. The Martlet honeys are good, too. Try Hungarian Acacia, Fijian Tropical Flower and Comb in a Jar. Around 23p to 24p each and excellent (32p for the comb in a jar).

Most good health food shops stock the honeys and vinegars, and the wine concentrates, too. But get any stockists in your area by writing to the Merrydown Wine Company at Horam Manor, Horam, Heathfield, Sussex.

Vinyl druggel to protect good carpets

I have this white Indian carpet which I want to put in my newly-painted living room. But I also have this 18-month-old Dalmatian who swims in the Serpentine (at 7 in the morning, with me having been dragged out of bed to take him there) and who loves to get back to roll on carpets. If he is dry by the time he returns, and he often is, he chews tiny rubbery fragments off guaranteed too-hard-to-chew bouncing balls. Or he fiercely defends himself against the tattered remains of a rubber-backed rug which insists on attacking him all the time and sheds as it does. Or he... well, you can see he and my white carpet aren't exactly compatible.

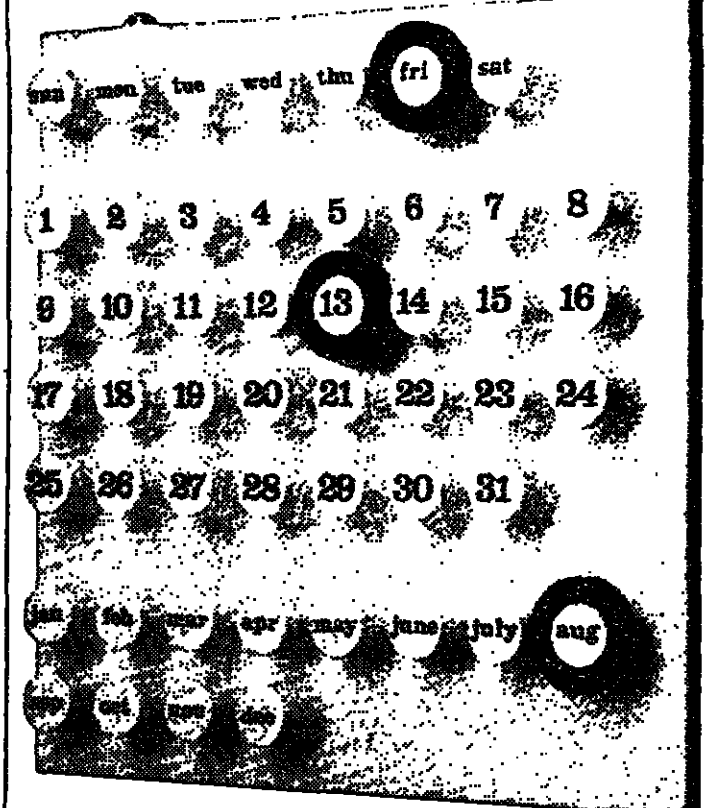
So I hid me to Harrods for a druggel. That was some weeks ago—they wanted six weeks to make it. Then I found dozens of people who didn't know what a druggel was, apart from the fact that it is something I am waiting for.

Well, it is a protective covering for carpets. Strips of the stuff cover carpets in bad weather or when too many people are trooping in to banqueting and similar places.

I have in the office the modern equivalent of the old tough fabric druggel. This is a really strong "C-Through Vinyl Carpet Protective Runner" as the distributor so snappily calls it.

The runner is as clear as the name suggests so that patterns and colours show through it. The underside is spiked so as to prevent slipping but with tiny spikes that will not hurt the pile. The runner is 27 inches wide and costs £1.13 a linear yard. Useful for homes, cars, hotels, anywhere. But do remember one thing. It is pretty bulky when rolled up for storage. Since mine is to be about 12 by 10 feet, I stick to the fabric. I would certainly use this to protect good car carpeting because one would probably rarely store the stuff and, in any case, the pieces would be small.

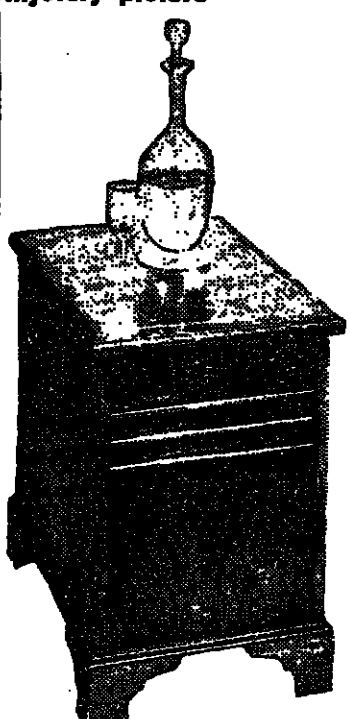
For information on where to buy the Vinyl druggel, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to AOC of 184 Pinner Road, Harrow, Middlesex. Phone 01-863 7161.



I like this everlasting calendar. Ideal for offices, dens, young rooms, kitchens (if you want the date there, but it looks nice anyway) and reception lounges.

Designed in Italy, it is made of glossy, white, moulded plastic, easy to wipe clean or to wash. It measures 18½ inches square. The days, dates and months are on cylindrical pegs. Close-fitting rings grip and frame the appropriate pegs to highlight the current dates. Day and month letters are red, with black framing rings, while figures are black, with red framing rings. It retails at £3.50 (add 35p for postage and packing if you buy mail order). Personal or mail shopping from either F. J. Turnbull, of 28, Ladgate Hill, London, E.C.4, just a stone's throw from St. Paul's; or from Abacus, of 17, Baker Street, London, W.1, not far from the Classic Cinema, near the Marylebone Road end and on the West side of Baker Street.

Another mystery picture



What with shower cabins that look like wardrobes and TV sets that hide behind chests of drawers and Chippendale cabinets, we have had our share of "Guess what?" pictures lately.

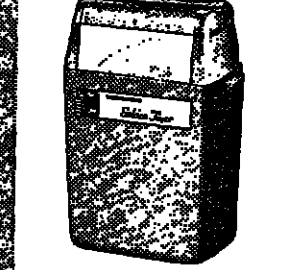
I am prepared to bet you still haven't guessed what this is unless you read backwards. It is a Humidifier.

The point about humidification is that it protects old furniture from the ravages of dried-out air in centrally heated surroundings. Hence the idea of building a humidifier into a reproduction piece to blend with the surroundings.

French polished, in a mahogany finish, the DB Humidifier has a green, leathered top with gold, tooled border. It stands 18½ inches high by 19 inches long by 12½ inches wide. The water capacity is 2½ gallons, the motor 230/250 volts.

The price is £45, and it is sold direct by David Burkinshaw Restorations, of 236, High Street, Beckenham, Kent. A free demonstration and delivery service is available in Central London and in a 10-mile radius of Beckenham. Carriage extra to other parts of U.K.

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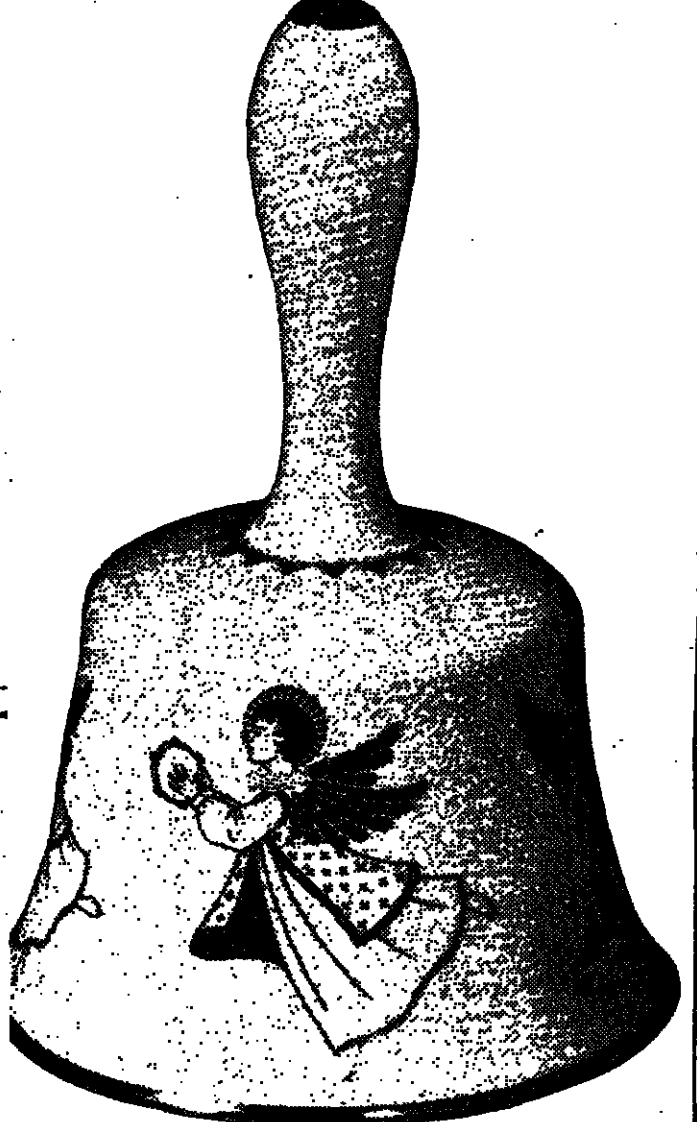


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ose commemorative items—how their number grows and how grows. Plates galore, goblets galore, and beakers galore, aren't there? This is the first time I have seen a commemorative bell. Of fine bone china, the design is based on a 13th-century bell used in the days when it was rung to 1 people to hear good news.

So this bell is just to commemorate good news, and not special anniversary, although the maker, Hammersley, as feel that Christmas was very much in mind.

The wording, in gold around the inner rim, reads: "When a mee ring be sweetly sing." The inscription comes from a local Staffordshire family called Rudhall, 1710.

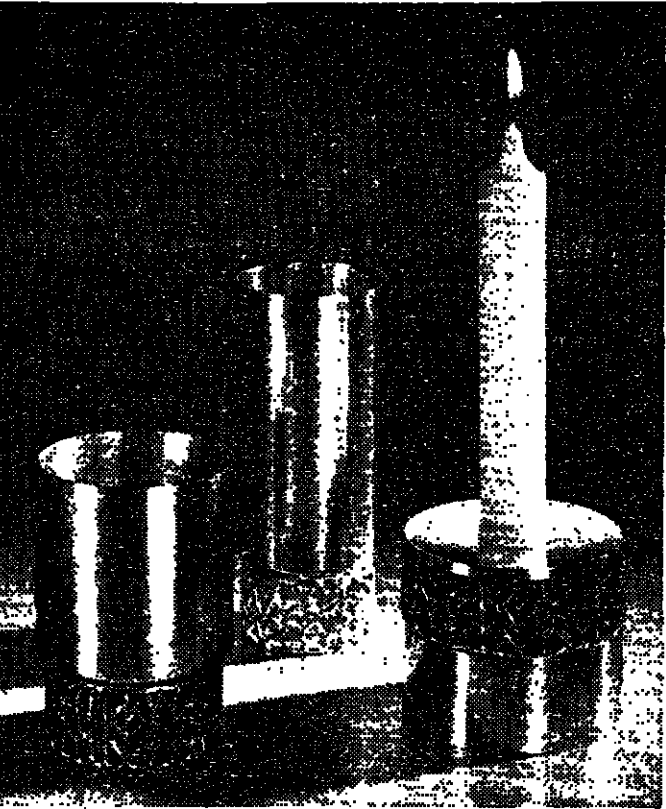
It really is a very dainty thing, in white with golden gels. The clapper gives a clear, unmuffled, almost tuneful and. It stands about 6 inches tall, with a base diameter 4 inches and a shoulder diameter of 2½ inches. The selling ce is about £4.80, and the maker is Hammersley and Co. (ngton), of Sutherland Road, Stoke-on-Trent. Write for chists there. Meanwhile, if you are near Lawleys, Thos. ode China-craft in London, Kendal Milne of Manchester, or mers of Edinburgh, you will find the Hammersley Bell there.

● You do not have to love opera and ballet to love the current exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, entitled "Twenty-five years of Opera and Ballet." The concoction of music, film, lighting, and stagey sets comes off to delight the eye and ear, taking you backstage, on stage, into the stalls. Back-up literature, discs, etc., will be on sale and every 500th visitor will get a £2 gift voucher to offset against opera or ballet tickets. Ends October 10.

● Boys of all ages, and a few girls, would enjoy "Chuffs," the dealer in secondhand model railways and other bits and pieces—anything from N gauge to Gauge 2, with Dinkies and pre-war clockwork toys as well. The place is as much a social club as railway shop and always great fun at 2, Broadley Street, London, N.W.8.

So successful has Chuffs been that the City of London now gets a branch. "Son of Chuffs" is at 3, Bucklersbury, London, E.C.4, and the telephone number is 01-248 7201/7309.

● More room at the top with a loft conversion. One good specialist in the work is Crescent Loft Conversions of 10-54, Roebuck Lane, West Bromwich. Send for leaflets.



Two famous young designers, Gillian Packard and Christopher Lawrence, are well known to FT readers. He for his silver and gorgeous tableware in smooth or rugged silver along with his noble presentation pieces. She for her jewellery which, while as modern as any, is so graceful and sort of restful, wearable with anything on any occasion at any age.

His cruet is pictured here. See the work of both at the special Edinburgh Festival display at Hamilton and Inches, of 87, George Street, Edinburgh EH2 3 EY.

● Galloping Gourmet Graham Kerr is to launch his own range Ovenware, Cookware, and Cutlery, all designed and made to his own specifications to fit in to what he calls "The Logical Kitchen."

I have not seen the range yet—nor, indeed, pictures or photographs of them. So I know as little as you. But the first show will be at Harrods from Saturday, to-day, and stay there exclusively for a fortnight. After that, the range will be at 70 selected stores throughout the country. I understand there is a snub-nosed tea kettle (because spouts break); griddle pan, omelette pan, saucepans and everything made so that cleaning is dead easy. Get names of future stockists from the distributor, Nordiska, of 315, New Kings Road, London, S.W.6.

● Humidification is something on which I get regular queries. So this is a good opportunity to give the address of the Humidifier Advisory and Consultancy Service, which is 21 Napier Road, Bromley, Kent BR2 9JA. There is, incidentally, a showroom at this address. The Centre will send out, free, a leaflet showing the range of available British humidifiers and will welcome the chance to give any information on the whole subject.

Now look at the next column.

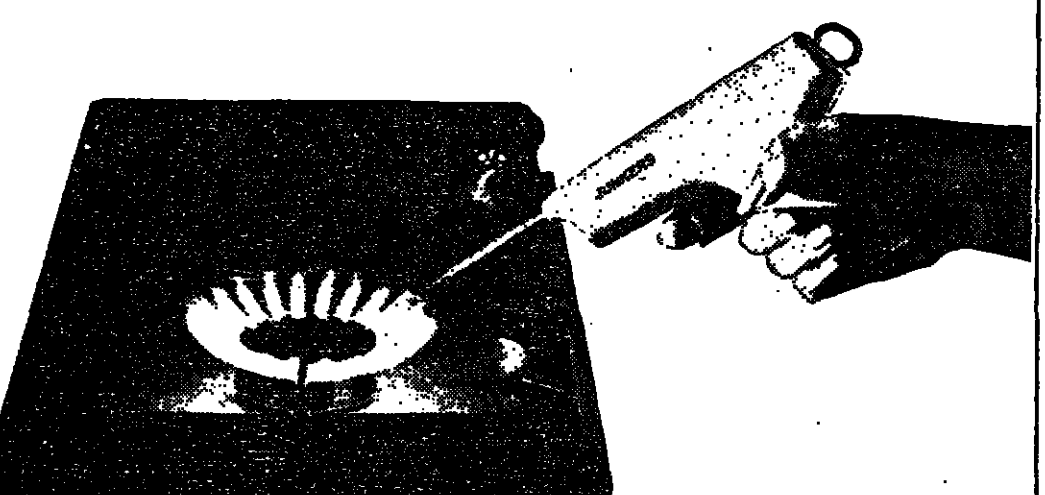
Making the best of a TV set's looks

TV sets may be essentials but they are usually ugly and obtrusive. Yet, I know I'll offend and upset all sorts of good friends who make nice-looking sets, whose designs I have admired.

They will remind me of my praise of their new models. I particularly like the new sets from GEC (Radio and Television) of Langley Park, Slough, Bucks. Do ask for leaflets and stockists (write to the publicity department). Some sets are on satiny steel cruciform bases with one slender stem. Others on white, plastic pedestal bases which are reminiscent of the Arkana furniture I like so much. Prices are good, too, as well as the clean lines of these new ranges.

Anyway, regardless of my praise, a TV set is, to me, only comparatively nice-looking. It is still an intruder in any room, or almost any room, however it looks.

All this leads up to a bracket, a wall bracket, on which to stand your set. I cannot show a picture of it because that's the point of it. The bracket is almost invisible. Very well made, very well finished, and very strong, this bracket is made in two pieces. An arm is fixed to the wall, with two giant metal Rawlplugs (supplied) and obviously so as to be amply strong.



The Piezo crystals system, so proven and so good in cigarette lighters, is now firing a new igniter for gas cookers. To recap, deformed crystals set off an "electric" spark which is strong enough to light up a gas.

This is the Junkers Piezo Gas Igniter, introduced here by Evered and Co. (Hardware), of Surrey Works, Smethwick, Warley, Wores., so get stockists' names from that address—it is in better hardware shops now. The price is about £2.25. I like the fact that there are no trailing wires, as well as its excellent pistol-shaped design, with an easy-to-use trigger. It works on all gas appliances, including bottled gas units, and, of course, it works, like a lighter, without connection to the gas cooker or other unit. About 8½ inches long, it weighs only 5½ ounces and can hang on a self-adhesive wall hook sold with it.

Another metal piece is screwed to the underside of the set (4 screws). This metal plate slots on to the arm with a hole and peg system. The result is a set that can be easily swivelled from left to right, however heavy it is. It is out of the way, at the right height, and somehow better looking virtually in "mid-air." Essential furniture space is saved.

Another thing about higher-up sets—they are more comfortable to view when lying down. The Broadaker bracket is a good, simple, functional thing which you can buy direct from Broadaker Engineering of PO Box No. 64, Guernsey, Channel Islands. The 18-inch arm costs £5.45 and will hold most sets. Bigger, colour TV sets should have the 24-inch arm at £6.45. At the risk of boring readers who already know it, I should in 24 St. George Street, Hanover Square, London, W.1, or at this stage. It goes on to the top G-Plan stockists.

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BUILDING SOCIETIES

FINANCIAL TIMES
SURVEY

Riding the crest of a wave as funds pour in

By SANDY McLACHLAN

The building society movement is currently riding the crest of a wave. Funds are coming into the movement at an unprecedented rate and are being lent out just about as quickly: building societies have always admitted that in modern times there has been an insatiable demand for home finance which they were not able to satisfy, but it is clear that even the societies themselves have been more than a little surprised at the demand for funds which the recent availability of money has triggered off.

Seen in perspective, the performance over the last couple of years is little short of staggering. In the 20 years from 1950 to 1969 the movement's lending for house purchase rose sedately, and with some fluctuations, from £270m. to £1,559m. In 1970 there was an uncharacteristic upward surge to within a whisker of £2,000m., and the estimated figure for 1971 of £2,500m. may well be exceeded if the movement keeps up its current momentum.

These figures are reflected in the increasing power of the building society movement in the financial field. In terms of total assets they are already clear in second place behind the life assurance movement, and on current performance they are catching up fast. The National Savings movement has been left well behind, as have the clearing banks.

The dynamic factor in this growth is of course the net inflow of funds to the movement. Back in 1969 building societies were struggling to maintain an average net inflow of £80m. a month to meet their estimated lending figure. So far this year the net monthly inflow figure has ranged between £118m. and

£197m., taking into account interest credited to depositors. While clearly highly delighted by this availability of funds, the building societies are treating the situation cautiously, as well they might do. It is clear that in no small measure the rapid upsurge in the inflow of funds is due to extraneous factors rather than to any long-term change in the inherent attraction of building society investment. Over the last couple of years the building societies have introduced a number of new schemes — SAYE, insurance linked and the like—but these have had a minimal effect on the overall cash intake.

Currently the high inflow can be attributed in part to the fact that building society rates are relatively attractive to the small saver, who has always been the backbone of the movement. But the unquantifiable effects of a dull stockmarket and uncertain investment outlook make the movement wary of sudden change in rates, since societies must be sitting on a certain amount of potentially "hot money." They have experienced rapid transitions between relative plenty and mortgage famine before.

New background

Leaving this question apart—it is treated elsewhere in this survey at greater length—the building societies are finding that size brings new considerations. They are operating against a new background: one where controversy exists about the adequacy of the current housing stock (in terms of quality as much as numbers) and what will be considered adequate say five years from now. At the same time the financial power of the move-

ment means that it exercises a substantial influence on the housing market. There is a growing case for tracing a relationship between private housebuilding starts and the availability of mortgage finance. And within the housebuilding cycle it seems clear that the availability of building society money can exercise a noticeable effect on the rate of growth in residential property prices.

The fact of their size, and their increasing predominance in financing house purchase means that building societies can no longer simply act as passive vehicles for providing money. Already they have had an effect on acceptable

standards of new housing in the private sector: building society lending on new houses is now conditional on a National Housebuilders' Registration Council guarantee, which makes membership of the NHBRC (and the consequent adherence to its standards) a must for virtually all private builders.

In the current political climate building society participation extends still further. The "fair rents" policy of the present Government aimed at persuading public authority tenants to switch to buying their homes is heavily dependent on building society co-operation and more particularly, building society cash.

Clearly then building societies are reaching the stage where they will play a part in shaping the housing market as well as financing it. Their very size ensures that this will happen without any conscious effort on their part, but more and more the movement is coming round to the view that building societies have a responsibility in this respect.

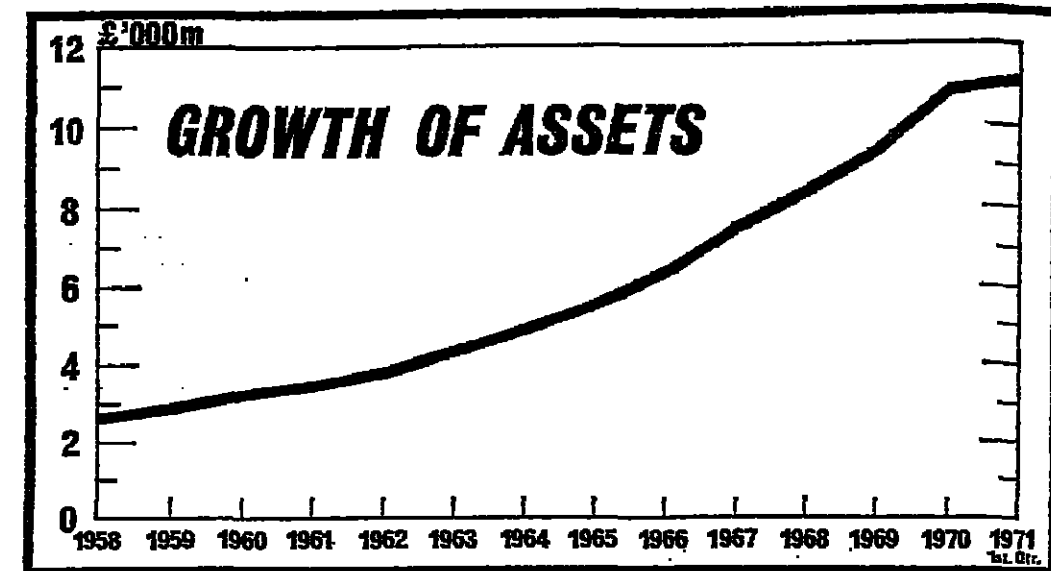
This becomes increasingly important as one looks forward. Quite apart from the trends in net inflow the building societies will have the benefit of a continuously increasing flow of mortgage repayments. The figure should top the £1,000m. mark in the current year, and it may well have doubled by 1977, or be over £3,000m. by 1981, or 50 per cent. more than the total 1970 lending figure.

Real strength

Of course the natural expectation is that house prices will continue to rise over the period—although probably not at the current rate—so that inflation will mop up some of this extra cash. However, it is obvious that the real financial strength of building societies will go on increasing.

With projections like these in mind the building societies are devoting a good deal of effort and research to identify the characteristics of the market in which they operate. Much work is being done on why people move, and to discover what they want to move to.

Another avenue which is being carefully explored is the possibility of direct building society participation in major programmes of urban renewal. Progress here is slow, partly since it could not be accomplished under the existing



restricting building society legislation and partly because the movement is ultra-conscious of the need to preserve its image with the depositor. However, useful building society money might be in property redevelopment—it is not the movement's traditional field of operation, and is not likely to become so to any marked degree.

However, given the size of their total resources, even a small proportion of the building societies' money could make a big impact on the housing equation. Already there is some building society finance for the private housebuilder at rates of interest which he could not obtain elsewhere. The need for greater co-operation between the builder and the society is gradually being accepted, and with funds relatively plentiful the building societies are better able to help the housing societies as well. The next step of co-operation with local authorities must surely come in time.

But while the building society movement is exploring its new responsibilities it is equally alive to its old ones. It is, after all, the depositors who provide the cash which building societies have to lend, and the investment package which they are offered is unique.

No one has ever fully explained the attraction of a building society investment. It is certainly appropriate for large numbers of people, but

at the same time it continues to attract funds from people—for example those who do not pay tax—who could be much better accommodated elsewhere.

Within the movement the general belief is that absolute security of capital plus easy withdrawal facilities and reasonable yield is the basis of this attraction. To some also mortgage priority may be important.

There is no doubt that the rock-like stability of the building society movement has proved to be an attraction when other seemingly safe havens for funds have not lived up to their reputation. At least some of the money currently coming in must be traced to the Government's "lame duck" policy.

Rapid action

To some extent the oddest event in the building society world for the last few years may even have helped its security image. This was the much-publicised run on the Derbyshire Building Society in the wake of the Rolls-Royce collapse. False rumour and a fair measure of panic caused a totally unnecessary rush to withdraw money from the Derbyshire. Within 24 hours something like £20m. in liquid resources had been pledged by other Building Society Association members to tide the Derbyshire over.

In the event the run stopped about as quickly as it had started, and contingency plans

to bail the Derbyshire out by a merger with a bigger society proved unnecessary.

The real success here was not in safeguarding the Derbyshire depositors: in the building society world this would have been done as a matter of course. Instead it was the rapid action which stopped the run and quickly restored the Derbyshire to an independent society trading normally again. Although the situation was entirely different in the Vehicle and General Insurance collapse, people were quick to point out the contrasting roles played by the Building Societies Association in rallying round the Derbyshire, and the British Insurance Association, which virtually washed its hands of V & G.

The building societies, in spite of their current success, still come in for criticism, largely as a result of their innately conservative approach to life. While other commercial organisations are moving rapidly towards unsecured lending as the rule rather than the exception the building societies still shy away, even from 100 per cent. mortgages, and other examples could be quoted. However, their strong position has its roots in a proven successful investment package, and with the pace of growth over the last two years they are becoming a lot more imaginative in their thinking about the future housing pattern.

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1 year	£1,051	£5,253	2 years	127	254	508	762	£5	£240	£34	£274	£1	£80	£72	£84
2 years	£1,104	£5,519	4 years	268	536	1,073	1,610	£10	£480	£67	£547	£3	£180	£216	£252
3 years	£1,160	£5,798	6 years	425	851	1,702	2,553	£25	£1,200	£169	£1,369	£5	£300	£360	£420
4 years	£1,218	£6,092	8 years	600	1,201	2,402	3,604	£50	£2,400	£337	£2,737	£8	£480	£576	£672
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BUILDING SOCIETIES II

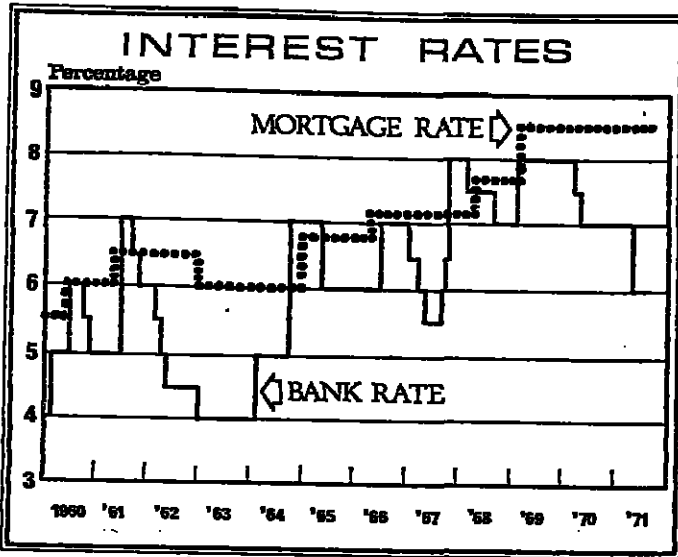
Renewed argument on the level of mortgage rates

By SANDY McLACHLAN

The building societies are currently under fire to bring down their interest rates in order to reduce the cost of house purchase. This is by no means an unusual occurrence, and it is one they have learnt to live with. However, with money coming in at an unprecedented rate, and with the mortgage rate unchanged in spite of two Bank Rate reductions, is there perhaps some justification for the current pressure?

The argument runs something like this. Those for the lower rate point out that the building society lending rate is usually souched in terms of the lending rate went to 8 per cent, shortly after Bank Rate hit a renewed peak of 8 per cent. Since then Bank Rate has come down to 6 per cent, but the mortgage rate has not moved.

The building society counter to this is to point out immediately that their rates have never been tied to Bank Rate. They reinforce this point by saying that demand for mortgages is running at a peak and that they are lending all the money they can take in, so why would the rate come down? Retaliation from the lower rate brigade is swift. What



about the building societies' liquidity ratio? The legal figure is 74 per cent, while many answers here. Two of the most common are that in the first place much of this liquidity is notional since it is tied up in mortgages committed but not yet completed, and secondly that the legal liquidity ratio bears little relation to reality. The argument here is that absolute security is part of the package deal offered to depositors, and that a substantial liquidity ratio (few societies would be happy to drop much below 14 per cent.) is a necessary prerequisite.

Implied by the high liquidity. Building societies have several answers here. Two of the most common are that in the first place much of this liquidity is notional since it is tied up in mortgages committed but not yet completed, and secondly that the legal liquidity ratio bears little relation to reality. The argument here is that absolute security is part of the package deal offered to depositors, and that a substantial liquidity ratio (few societies would be happy to drop much below 14 per cent.) is a necessary prerequisite.

Equity stake

This sketches in the background, but how should one evaluate claim and counter-claim? Perhaps it is best to start by pointing out that although the subject is highly emotive, marginal movements in the rate do not make an outstanding difference to the level

of monthly mortgage repayments. At the same time the income-tax payer gets his mortgage for a cost of just under 6 per cent after tax relief and into the bargain he gets an equity stake of up to 95 per cent in his property for a deposit of the balance: not a bad deal on the basis of past performance in residential property prices.

This helps dispose of the emotional argument, but as mutual organisations building societies owe equal allegiance to both ends of the bargain, and it is not really fair to drag in property price performance to this particular argument. It is, after all, at least theoretically possible that property prices might start going down, which would completely alter the picture.

However, the building society case is a strong one. The societies argue that the interest rate structure is finely balanced at present, and that any downward revision of rates could have a big adverse effect on net inflow of funds. Meanwhile mortgage demand is running high (and in the past the movement has been criticised for operating a rate structure which paid too much attention to the interests of existing borrowers—by keeping rates down—at the expense of latent potential demand which remained latent because funds were in short supply).

On the demand side, too, the building societies have to bear in mind the potential increase in demand for funds which may result from the present Government policy of fair rents: bringing public sector rents into line with the going market rate which will act as an incentive to persuade people to buy their own homes.

On the supply of funds aside the building societies have to face the possibility that much of the money they have taken in over the last year is merely seeking a temporary haven. This could easily be the case since security of capital has been at a premium since the Rolls-Royce and Mersey Docks situations where a supposed blue chip turned out to be worthless and a supposed gilt-edged stock turned out to be no such thing.

Competition

A further point here is that for much of the recent period of building society strength the stock market has been weak, and unit trusts have offered little real competition for funds. When a new bull market is firmly established in people's minds the building society movement will have to face, almost certainly, a steady outflow of funds back to equity investment.

The movement must also take into account the likely future trend in interest rates: there would be little point in a cut if a switch in U.S. monetary policy is liable to put worldwide interest rates back on an upward path.

However, granted all these factors, the building societies are not likely to keep up the current breakneck pace for ever, and in spite of their protestations to the contrary there is a case (indeed with some support inside the movement) for saying that liquidity is too high. Certainly if money continues to flow in at the current pace there is likely to be growing support towards the end of the year for a reduction in the mortgage rates.

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Insurance-linked savings schemes

By KEITH LEWIS

In March, 1969, the Bristol and West Building Society became the first to launch a savings scheme linked to life assurance. Since then this type of building society business has mushroomed to the extent that there are now an estimated 80 different schemes available. However, it is significant that much of the initiative since B and W's pioneering effort has come from the large life assurance companies, which have tended to seek links with the societies. There are now roughly twenty life assurance companies involved in this sort of business.

The strange thing is that they have not been at all successful—at least from the building societies' point of view—though the concept has considerable appeal. The total inflow of funds to the building society movement to date is put at £3m., of which Bristol and West accounts for about half. The next largest is the Abbey National (£826,000 at the end of 1970) and the remainder are all relative newcomers: Nationwide (£100,000), Bradford and Bingley (£90,000), Cheltenham and Gloucester (£262,500), South of England (£186,000), Halifax (£73,000) and Liverpool (under £40,000), while there is a preponderance of those under the £10,000 mark. Put those figures in the context of the £10,000m. plus handled by the societies and one has some idea of perspective. Even Bristol and West, which has achieved the most effective penetration, can only claim to have attracted £12m. in relation to its £165m. of total assets.

Closer look

Taking a closer look at the schemes themselves one can at first generalise by saying that the life assurance element is invariably tiny. In its simplest form, the idea is to pay a monthly insurance premium (which gives cover to the policyholder at least fifteen times the annual premium so as to make it a qualifying policy) so that the tax relief—15½ per cent of the premium to the standard rate taxpayer—pays for the life cover. An example shows that £84 in annual premiums buys £100 of scheme, with £92 actually going into the savings account; this explains how the operators can claim that even initially one's money is increased. And, of course, the building society rate of interest compounds on top of that.

One slight disadvantage is that the rate of interest on a "linked" account is slightly less than on an orthodox savings account. The reason is that the Inland Revenue collects tax from the societies at an averaged rate of 31 per cent to allow for those savers who pay at less than the standard rate of 38½ per cent and who could not otherwise reclaim any possible differential. The fact that there must also be a considerable saving to the revenue authorities in administrative costs is another factor. In contrast, the tax liability to the assurance linked investor reverts to the norm—though in practice this is probably a very minor consideration.

Split option

The appeal of this type of scheme is its basic simplicity, but the trend towards finding further variations has blossomed. For example, Bristol and West brought out an assurance policy backed by M and G Trust Assurance (a subsidiary of one of the most respected unit trust groups), which the policyholder can adjust to suit at the end of each year. Someone who feels that ordinary shares have risen a long way and are therefore unlikely to appreciate further over the next 12 months can opt for 75 per cent of the insurance premium to be invested in a building society account, with the remainder in equities (both sums struck after deduction of life assurance cover). The converse can, of course, also be applied if the stock market appears to be embarking on a rising trend, or, alternatively, a 50:50 split will be applied if the policyholder leaves it up to the society.

Another variation on the theme is the Abbey National's tie-up with Property Growth Assurance, the latter being the third largest property bond operator. In this case the premiums are halved, with one portion going to the building society and the other being channelled into a Property Fund (which invests directly into property). However, it has been pointed out that since this is a single premium contract, and therefore non-qualifying for income-tax relief, it could be cheaper to invest in both forms individually. There is, of course, the argument for convenience. The other advantages of these schemes are that, as opposed to

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£530	£600	£720	£840
£795	£900	£1080	£1260
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BUILDING SOCIETIES III

Backing home ownership

By MICHAEL CASSELL

The pattern of housing in Britain is currently developing in a way which can only mean continued growth in the volume of business undertaken by the nation's building societies.

A vast amount of time, energy and money is spent each year by the construction industry in attempts to gauge the pattern of future demand for housing and, although their forecasts can be confounded by a multitude of factors, a general trend is discernible.

The Economic Development Committees for Building and Civil Engineering, which themselves have been known to change their minds quite frequently about prospects, suggested at the time of their last industry forecasts in March that private builders could hold some 60 per cent. of the total U.K. housing market by the end of this decade, compared with just over 48 per cent. last year.

The Committees see an annual rate of private house completions of between 215,000 and 245,000 units by 1974 alone, compared with just over 170,000 in 1970. But at the same time, they forecast a dramatic decline in the level of council house completions, from a peak of 203,000 in 1967 to only 140,000 by 1974.

Perhaps even more significant is the way the balance has actually shifted in recent months, although it can be most unwise to read too much at once into construction industry statistics which cover a relatively short space of time.

Nevertheless, the June house-building situation—no late figures are yet available—seems to highlight what is expected to

become the future pattern. These statistics showed that while more private homes were completed during this period than in any month since the end of 1968, the number of council houses finished fell to one of its lowest points this year. The starts picture was the same, with the private sector providing the best results for two years while council house starts were very low.

There seems little reason, either, why the swing away from local authority housing work should change dramatically in the future. An apparent desire on behalf of a large sector of the population to own their own homes—with security and investment factors uppermost in their minds—combined with the present Government's determination to encourage owner occupation, should set the seal on the future pattern of house building for some time to come.

Builders' view

Builders, however, have to be fairly well convinced of the future strength in demand before they embark on expensive housing development programmes. Too often in the past they have had new houses left on their hands for far too long and, quite understandably, they would not wish and could not afford to repeat the situation again.

Finance, too, has played a major part in containing housing projects in the last few years. Money has been particularly tight—acutely so for the small man—but with the liquidity outlook now loosening up, contractors appear to be a

HOUSEBUILDING IN BRITAIN

(monthly averages—'000 dwellings)

	Public	STARTS			COMPLETIONS		
		Private	Total	Public	Private	Total	
1966	15.5	16.1	31.6	15.0	17.1	32.1	
1967	17.8	19.5	37.3	17.0	16.7	33.7	
1968	16.2	16.7	32.9	16.0	18.5	34.5	
1969	14.7	13.9	28.6	15.4	15.1	30.6	
1970	12.8	13.6	26.4	15.1	14.2	29.3	
1971—January	7.9	12.6	20.4	12.8	14.2	27.1	
February	10.6	12.4	23.0	11.2	12.0	23.1	
March	11.5	15.7	27.1	17.6	14.3	31.9	
April	14.6	16.5	31.1	12.6	14.2	26.7	
May	13.3	16.5	29.8	13.1	14.5	27.6	
June	11.3	18.8	30.2	12.4	16.7	29.1	

little happier to embark on house construction work.

They are also aware that mortgage funds have never been more available, a major factor in assessing the saleability of their product. The relevance of this last point cannot be too strongly emphasised and some very pertinent remarks on the subject were made last month by Mr. Leonard Williams, general manager of the Nationwide Building Society.

Mr. Williams told a House Builders Registration Council conference in London that in 1969 and 1970 there was a pronounced swing away from new house buying. The proportion of building society money going to new houses fell even at a time when funds were scarce, he stressed.

He described the situation as "alarming" and then went on to explain that the pattern of demand had not changed, the

reason for the development was that the new houses were not there to buy and some builders had missed an opportunity.

Mr. Williams concluded that there was, therefore, a need for much better planning and forecasting of future demand, as well as a need for closer co-operation between the construction industry and building societies in an attempt to match house completions with periods of relatively high mortgage availability. This, he suggested, may well mean greater willingness on the part of the building society movement to provide short-term construction finance.

Urban renewal

He stressed the point that confidence on the part of the builders themselves was necessary to feed the growth of the new house market and that they would have to adopt a "more competent and aggressive" marketing policy in

future. In the longer term, the market for new homes would depend upon the rate of demolition of older houses and the industry should take steps to promote more effectively the philosophy of urban renewal where it was clearly a better solution than rehabilitation.

On one point, everyone appears to be in agreement. There is a desperate need for enlargement of the nation's housing stock. The Government has admitted that there are about 1.5m. slum houses which had to be cleared away to make room for new development and another 4m. homes which could well go the same way without urgent improvement work being carried out.

Britain's building societies are now in a better position than ever before to help people like these make home ownership a reality; whether or not the housebuilders are prepared to take risks to meet the challenge remains to be proved beyond all doubt.

The movement and its image

By NORMAN GRIGGS, Secretary-General, The Building Societies Association

The public image of any institution is difficult to assess—particularly from the inside—but judging from Press criticism and such complaints as arrive in this Association's post bag, understanding of the way in which building societies work has improved immensely over the past decade.

Trouble on the public relations front blew up early in 1952 when money rates started to be used by the Government as an instrument of financial policy. This necessitated an increase in the building society investment rate from 2½ to 3½ per cent. and a consequent increase to 4½ per cent. in the mortgage rate, which had been

static at 4 per cent. since 1945. Borrowers, who had largely ignored the small print in their mortgage deeds, suddenly discovered that they had entered into what seemed to be one-sided contracts which permitted the rate of interest to be raised after a short period of notice.

Since 1952 these rises continued steadily up to the current level of 8½ per cent. so there is little wonder that the public image of the societies suffered and that a giant exercise was needed to explain why institutions which borrowed short and lent long must, if they were to survive, keep the rates they paid and charged consistent with market conditions.

Explanation of the true position was not helped by the intervention of politicians who failed to understand why low building society rates could not go hand in hand with a plentiful supply of mortgage funds. Judging from the reaction to the last rise in April 1969, however, the battle seems to have been largely won and the reasonableness of the case established. If building society rates are kept below the market level, a mortgage famine sets in which not only affects prospective home buyers but also existing borrowers who wish to sell their properties.

Trustee status

The second way in which the societies' image was dented was through the activity, during the 1950's, of certain fringe societies which, working within the letter but not the spirit of the then building society legislation, offered high rates to investors to attract their funds, which they then used in speculative property deals. These mal-practices culminated in the crash of the State Building Society, which shocked the Government into tightening up the law and offering reputable building societies a hallmark of respectability through trustee status. Membership of the Association started to mean more to the public and this was recently reinforced by events in Derby where, within hours of the crisis emerging, no less than £20m. was offered by other members of the Association to bolster the liquid resources of the society concerned.

It would be dangerous to become complacent, however, and there are one or two areas where criticism remains a hardy annual. The first of these relates to the valuation of a property which is the prerequisite of a building society loan. The borrower pays for this. Why is a sight of the report denied him?

The answer lies in the word "valuation," which does not imply in any way a full structural survey. The valuation of a £4,000 house costs £3, whereas a full survey to protect the purchaser might well exceed £30. Valuers are only prepared to work on the lower scale if the

purchase has no redress against them. An increase in fees would affect all borrowers, including those acquiring a new house with a NHBC certificate.

Building societies have given the problem much thought, but in an imperfect world it is difficult to improve on the present practice. If the mortgage application is turned down or the valuation is well below the purchase price, the society will usually indicate the reasons.

Loan policy

Another frequent criticism is the reluctance of societies to grant 100 per cent. loans. There are a number of reasons—discouragement of thrift; the inflationary effect on house prices; the increased chance of the mortgage going wrong in the early years; the fact that the home-buyer tends to regard himself more as a renter—but, in reality, it is now a good deal easier for a man with a fair income and no capital to obtain a 100 per cent. loan. Option borrowers are catered for by a special guarantee scheme and there is little to choose under current conditions between an option mortgage and one with tax relief. In practice, few 100 per cent. mortgages are requested because income is usually the limiting factor on the amount which can be borrowed.

The third, and probably more justifiable criticism, lies in the charging by a building society of additional interest when a mortgage is prematurely redeemed. The Association has recommended that the additional charge should not exceed an amount equal to three months' interest on the outstanding balance and that no charge should be made where redemption is effected after a maximum period of five years. Nor should there be a charge in cases of hardship or where the borrower is purchasing another house with a loan from the same society.

A good case can be made out for charging additional interest if the redemption takes place very early in the life of a mortgage because a great deal of work has to be undertaken by the society when the loan is established and for this no fee is paid. As the term of the loan proceeds, however, redemption interest becomes more difficult to justify and the tendency is for these charges to be reduced. The prospective borrower should therefore inquire into this aspect of a society's practice before proceeding with a loan.

No doubt readers could raise other criticisms, but by and large building societies do give the public a very fair deal. They are not in the business to maximise profit and they work on narrow margins, so, if some of their extraneous income were to be pared away, it could only be recouped in the mortgage rate charged to borrowers.

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BUILDING SOCIETIES IV

High prices are no deterrent

By MICHAEL CASSELL

House prices are currently rising at a rate which is calculated to send a shudder through the hardest of prospective home buyers. While existing owner-occupiers can gain considerable satisfaction from the knowledge that their house stands as a sound investment in the face of continuing inflation, there is little comfort for those trying to break into the market for the first time.

But even with prices as high as they are, the queue of people anxious to obtain mortgages never seems to end and the building societies still find themselves hard pressed to meet demands made of them despite the fact that they are now lending at record levels. Against this background, the Building Societies Association said in July that an extra 600,000 borrowers could be accommodated this year, a rise of 100,000 on the 1970 figure. Total cash advances during the same period, according to the Association, could possibly rise by as much as £500m. to reach a massive £2,500m.

All it can

So if the price prospects for first-time buyers seem bad while those for existing owners may appear to be encouraging, it is nevertheless apparent that the building society movement is doing everything it can to make house purchase a reality for as many people as possible.

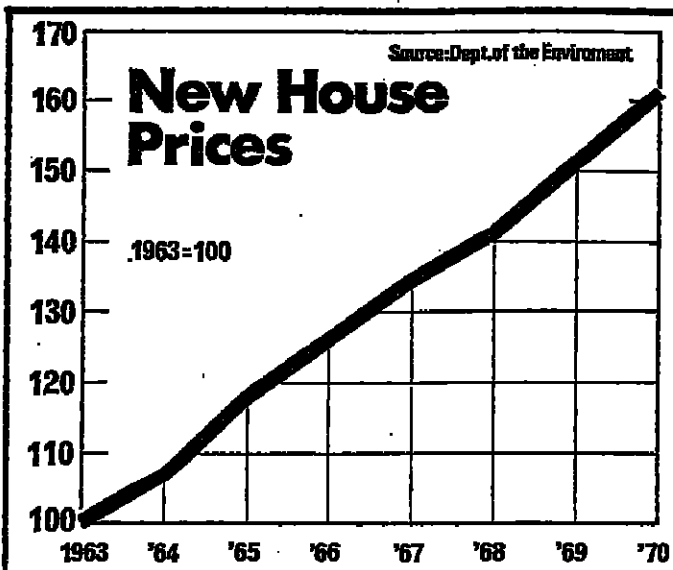
Some people claim, however, that there is still a lot more work to be done to smooth out the path to home ownership. A 1970. In cash terms, houses popular argument calls for a reduction of the mortgage interest rate but a closer examination of the situation shows that twice as much as they did 10 years ago. Earlier this year, the average price being charged for a new home stood at £5,453. The fact is that if the interest compared with £5,206 at the

end of 1970—both figures which would bring a wry smile to the faces of home buyers in London and the south east. Later figures show an increase in the average mortgage from £3,540 to £3,980 over the first half of the year.

Housing stock

Why the high prices? A major factor must be the level of the nation's housing stock, which leaves much to be desired. In 1969 and 1970 it was found that there had been a considerable swing away from new house buying inquiries but this was simply because there were not sufficient new houses to go round. In this situation, a sellers' market is created which is hardly calculated to keep prices stable.

Equally important, of course, is the actual cost of building a house. The picture here is particularly bleak with material prices rising steadily by an average of 1 per cent. each month and in some instances considerably more. Many people can tell of moving into a new house on a new estate and seeing later arrivals paying more for the same type of property within a matter of weeks.



It has also been suggested that the very presence of such a wealth of building society funds, ready for the prospective buyer, does nothing to harness rising house prices. Mr. Fuller Osborn, former chairman of the BSA, often resisted calls for 100 per cent mortgages and claimed such a move was inflationary. In the same way, it has been said, the availability of funds for home loans has fed the increasing level of house prices and certainly done nothing to check the rise.

Faced with this depressing catalogue of factors which play their part in maintaining high price levels, it might seem surprising that so many people can take advantage of the opportunity to own their home. It is a popular misconception that to buy an average house, a person must have an annual salary of at least £2,000 to make the exercise feasible. The BSA has wasted no time in putting that particular myth down with figures showing that 43 per cent. of all mortgages in 1970 went to

people earning less than £1,600 a year. The Housing Foundation has, in fact, calculated that £1,250 a year is often quite sufficient, with perhaps an extra £250 for people in the London area.

But whatever happens to house prices, and despite a few well publicised efforts to pass on the benefits of Selective Employment Tax reduction, there is no reason why the sharply climbing price graph should level out, the number of people wanting their own homes seems certain to grow equally fast. The Housing Foundation itself has estimated that there are over 1m. tenants in England and Wales who could afford to buy a house, many of whom thought it impossible.

The continuing availability of funds and higher construction activity on the part of the builders promises to inject further buoyancy into the housing market. For most people a prime objective in life is to hold the key to their own home, high prices or not.



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Future may hold a changing role

By MICHAEL BLANDEN

The highly specialised function of the building society movement is easily identified. It is to provide a safe outlet for small savings—at which the societies are undeniably efficient—and to use the funds to encourage home ownership. In spite of occasional criticism of the way in which this task is done, there is no doubt that on both sides of their business the societies can feel they are doing a job which is generally acknowledged as socially useful.

At present, however, a good deal of thinking is going on within the movement in an effort to determine what the role of the building societies will be in future. It appears to many of the men involved that circumstances may change in the future in ways which will require them to reconsider their function.

Getting money

For years now, the problem of the building societies has been straightforward; to attract and make available to potential house-buyers enough funds to meet the demand. For this reason, their attention has tended to be mainly concentrated on ways of getting in money, while the lending side has taken care of itself.

The movement is looking ahead now to a time when the need for mortgage finance will take rather different forms. The situation is now close where across the country there are enough houses for the number of families wanting to occupy them; the problem to be met is then that they are not necessarily in the right places nor of the right quality.

The future need, therefore, may be not as in the past simply to support the creation of a larger housing stock or to make money more easily and cheaply available to house buyers by giving bigger mortgages over longer periods. Rather, the building societies will be called on to play an important part in the establishment of higher housing standards.

The societies are also aware that they may need to justify their existence in the context of a more competitive financial climate. Their special position was recognised when the Bank of England set out its new rules on credit control, with the indication that bank competition might be limited if it appeared to threaten the movement's supply of money. Yet the likelihood is that in time the money market will become more open.

The movement is able to argue that its immense experience in attracting small savings cheaply, and its knowledge of housing and of the needs of house owners, make it uniquely qualified to take on a more involved role. Two areas are particularly attracting attention at present.

One is the switch from rented accommodation to home ownership in local authority and new town housing. Though this type of finance is much in line with the movement's traditional functions, it is a trend which presents special problems. One of these lies in the difficulty of persuading people to buy when their rents are relatively low.

This problem may be gradually reduced as a result of the Government's policy of bringing rents nearer to their market level. One approach has been found reasonably successful already, in which the corporation agreed to sell at a discount on market price to encourage buyers and reached an arrangement to share 100 per cent. finance of the purchase with the building society.

Even so, this situation demands special planning. From the building society's point of view, the situation of a new town or council estate has disadvantages; there is obviously no established market in houses in the early stage of development; and the society, in establishing its presence, will need time to build up through a local office the flow of savings funds inwards which is an essential part of its business. Moreover, any individual building society undertaking such an exercise would clearly be in danger of too great a concentration of its lending.

The need for a co-operative effort is even more evident in the other major area of possible activity which is under study. One of the main problems for the future is seen to lie in the need for a major effort towards urban renewal.

The problem was heavily underlined in the recent report prepared by Colin Buchanan and Partners for the Nationwide Building Society. Taking as its starting point the argument that the housing shortage has been more or less overcome, the report stressed the need for policies which would "emphasise the needs for intensive clearance of unfit housing and the positive renewal of inadequate housing areas, and which define more generous standards of space and amenity as part of long-range objectives for housing development."

Play a part

The building society movement would like to play a part in this mammoth task, by taking part possibly in the planning stages of these developments and by contributing to the huge financing required. The possibilities have been discussed fairly widely within the movement, and publicly aired on a number of occasions; and work has been started, for example, in a joint study in the Manchester area.

The movement is, however, not yet at the point of determining how its participation would work. It is clear that providing finance would be likely to demand new legislation. Lord Wakefield, for example, recently suggested in the Building Societies Gazette that societies should be able to lend up to 5 per cent. of their assets in a form of equity interest in specially established Urban Renewal Corporations.

This idea touches on one of the central difficulties of the situation. The building societies still need, above all, to ensure the absolute security of the funds invested with them, a security which has been based in the past on the strength of the mortgage on real property.

To fulfil the social requirement they foresee for a deeper involvement in the essential redevelopment of the country's housing and to contribute to the creation of higher general standards, they have to consider very carefully how best to use the funds at their command while retaining their traditional image of safety for savers.

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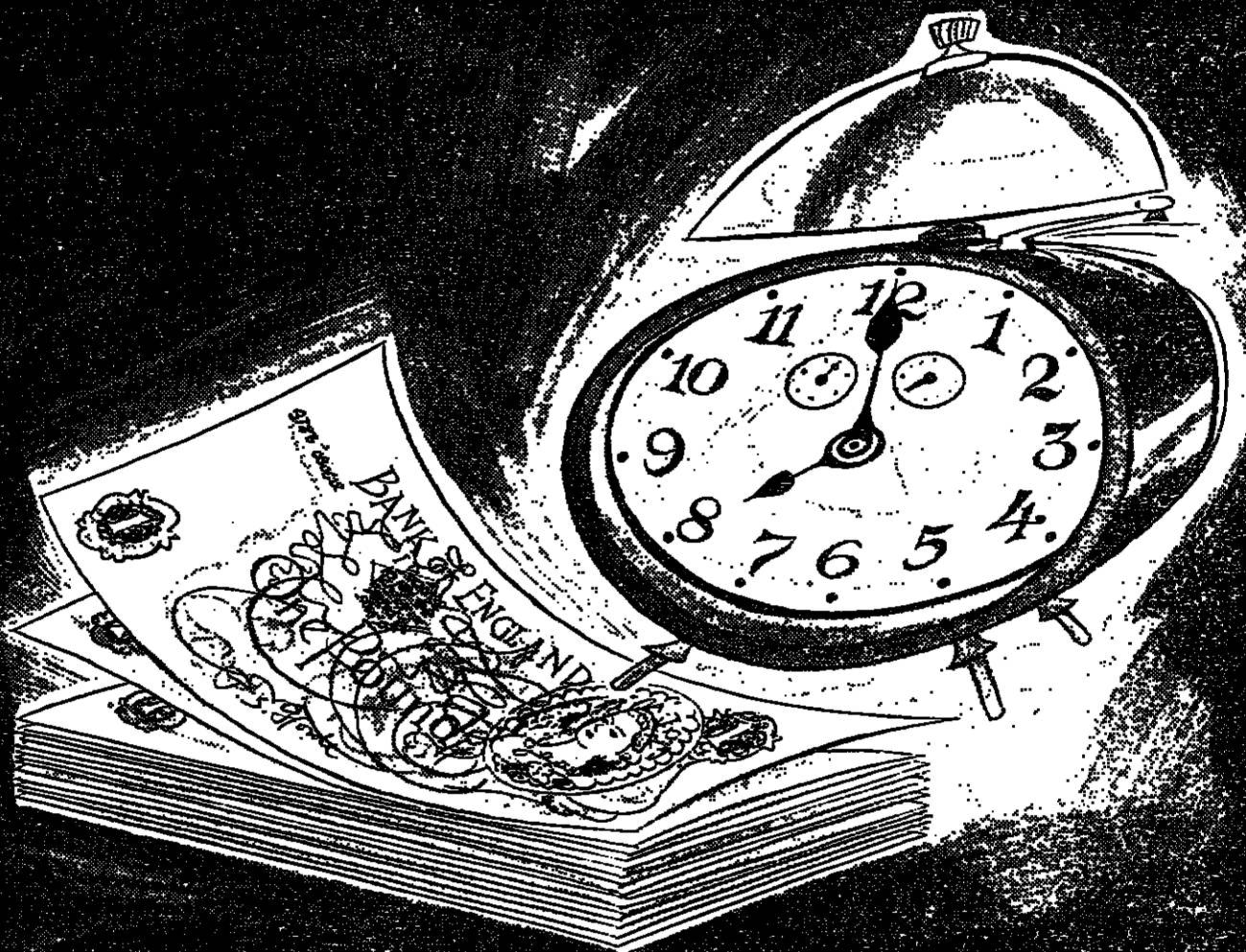
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SATURDAY AUGUST 21 1971

A troubled week

LAST SUNDAY, presumably with next year's election in mind, President Nixon announced a complete reversal of U.S. economic policy. Until now he has strenuously maintained that the measures he had already taken were adequate to bring the economy back to full employment and reduce inflation to a tolerable level. He had no intention, the Secretary of the Treasury has insisted on his behalf, of asking Congress for further tax cuts or introducing an incomes policy. But these are precisely the things he is now doing.

A bare announcement that the economy was to be further stimulated at a time when inflation is still a serious problem might well have been bad for the dollar. To guard his external flank, therefore, President Nixon took two steps. He imposed a 10 per cent. surcharge on U.S. imports of manufactured goods and instructed the Treasury "to suspend temporarily the convertibility of the dollar into gold."

Import tax

The import surcharge, for which Britain provided a precedent in 1965, is quite contrary to the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. Its aim is said to be to ensure that American goods are not at a disadvantage because of "unfair" exchange rates; when the import tax is ended, the unfair treatment is ended. This suggests that it is a bargaining weapon intended to persuade other countries to revalue their currencies upwards against the dollar.

The suspension of the link between the dollar and gold is designed to have the same effect. In the monetary system set up at Bretton Woods after the last war, other currencies are pegged to the dollar at fixed parities and the dollar itself was to be sold at a fixed price. If the U.S. has more reason to fear dollar is no longer pegged to gold, it is free to float up or down against other currencies; reform of the international system is the only way, short of a monetary system is needed, if rise in the official U.S. price of gold to which successive Administrations have been strongly opposed, that the dollar can be devalued. The suspension of the link means that the monetary system on which the world has lived for a generation is at least temporary abeyance, but it is not a revolution. The U.S. has put great pressure on its partners for several years past not to

Not encouraging

First reactions to this American attempt at solving its long-standing balance of payments problem have not, in fact, been encouraging. The Japanese Government has been under pressure from its businessmen not only to revalue but to withdraw trade concessions already made to the U.S.; by continuing to maintain the old parity against the dollar it has taken enough dollars into its official reserve to make it larger than that of the U.S. itself. The French have proposed maintaining a fixed exchange rate against gold, which also suggests an unwillingness to revalue. This may be a bargaining position from which they are willing to retreat, but the meeting of the Six on Thursday—which Mr. Barber attended—quite failed to agree a common attitude to the new situation.

Mostly convened conferences of this sort are only too likely to be unsuccessful. The risk of failure is that it may exacerbate at Bretton Woods after the last war, other currencies are pegged to the dollar at fixed parities and the dollar itself was to be sold at a fixed price. If the U.S. has more reason to fear dollar is no longer pegged to gold, it is free to float up or down against other currencies; reform of the international system is the only way, short of a monetary system is needed, if rise in the official U.S. price of gold to which successive Administrations have been strongly opposed, that the dollar can be devalued. The suspension of the link means that the monetary system on which the world has lived for a generation is at least temporary abeyance, but it is not a revolution. The U.S. has put great pressure on its partners for several years past not to

Letters to the Editor

Apprentice jockeys

Sir—I have just read, August 18, Elsiebeth Ganguin on the subject of apprentice jockeys. I am sorry to say this made me very angry, as I have a son who is an apprentice, and although you may feel that your interpretation of the life of an apprentice leads to a lot of cases, their treatment is a lot harsher than you have stated. My son has been an apprentice for five years, and his term finishes in 1972. His starting wage was 15s per week, and he is now earning the grand sum of £4.50 per week, the odd 50p having been given to him after having asked for it for about two months. He has already ridden his first winner, and I have been told that he has all the necessary qualifications, including stable weight, and a first-class jockey. The winner he rode was not a horse from his own stable, but from the stable of a person that was known to him some years ago.

His own boss refuses to give him rides, but I may say this is very surprisingly done; in the first instance I was told that, because he had not had a winner owners would not let him ride. However, he has now had the necessary winner and still is not given rides; other excuses are given which are too numerous to go into in this letter. I would also like to point out that he is given no clothing allowance and has to provide all of his own clothes, which makes things somewhat difficult. He has been boarded out into very bad accommodation and although he himself has tried very hard to find better "digs" has been unable to do so, but no assistance has been given to him in this respect.

His working hours are summer, 6.30 a.m. to 12 noon, and then 4.30 p.m. to anything up to 7.30 p.m. This is a seven-day-a-week routine. In the winter the starting time in the morning is 7.00 a.m. He has been home only one week-end since before Christmas last year, and tells me he is not likely to be able to come home again before November. He has an

annual holiday of two weeks each year, but if he should happen to take his holiday at Christmas, the two days of the Christmas are counted as part of his holiday.

If he goes away to the races he is given £1.50 travelling expenses, but if he comes home for the week-end he has to pay the fares out of his own pocket. I did try to get him released from his indentures by going up to Weatherby, but was told that there is no protecting body at all for apprentices, and that it is a well-known fact that a lot of boys are being used as a cheap labour force. I myself feel that this is very true, and I also feel having been asked for it for about two months. He has already ridden his first winner, and I have been told that he has all the necessary qualifications, including stable weight, and a first-class jockey. The winner he rode was not a horse from his own stable, but from the stable of a person that was known to him some years ago.

Mrs. G. S. Zimble, 170, The Drive, Bexley, Kent.

Rates from cars

Sir—Discussion in your columns as to the method of raising local authority income seems to be getting more and more ingenious, but I really doubt whether the methods are practical or fair. Mr. Kut's suggestion (August 18) on a local authority rate on cars surely goes too far. It is obviously fine if one lives in a city well endowed with public transport. Some of us live in areas where to reach anywhere at all by bus is a luxury, and the cost equally so. In addition, being liable for recall to work at all hours myself, and with my wife a doctor working upwards of 100 hours a week at a hospital, two cars are essential. Neither day-a-week routine. In the winter the starting time in the morning is 7.00 a.m. He has been home only one week-end since before Christmas last year, and tells me he is not likely to be able to come home again before November. He has an

It is now eight years since the publication of *Report on Higher Education* with its strong plea for expansion; and, what with the likelihood of an increase of demand very considerably greater than the projections of the Committee and the rumours of increasing difficulties in the market for the relevant skills, the time has clearly come for some review of recent history and prospects for the future.

Let me begin by declaring myself entirely unrepentant concerning the main policy of expansion. I see no evidence whatever that there has been any lowering of requirements of entry, nor do I believe that the standard of degrees has suffered deterioration. There are many problems associated with expansion which remain to be solved: problems of size, problems of courses, problems of group solidarity and morale. But the prediction that more means worse does not seem to me to have been justified. It is time for the faint-hearted to choose another target.

Academic unemployment

As to the talk of academic unemployment, let me say at once that I think it both exaggerated and premature. Clearly it would be very improbable, when the general labour market is slacker than at any time since the war, that the demand for graduates and other products of higher education should not also be slacker than in the past. This is not in question. What has to be demonstrated, however, if the rumours of academic unemployment are to have special significance, is that the demand in this section of the labour market is slacker than elsewhere; and that I think has yet to be shown.

Nevertheless, I do recognise two dangers in this respect, dangers which, if not yet acutely manifest, certainly demand attention. They arise partly in the sphere of training, partly in the sphere of expectations.

As regards training, I see danger in the continuing tendencies to excessive specialisation in universities south of the border (They order these things better in the North of Britain). The system of training in depth for first degrees as it has developed in recent years may be all right for the training of dons and high experts; though I see dangers of spiritual myopia even here. But it is not suitable for the training of the majority,

coives identical services from the local authority? If we can both afford to buy the house, should we not pay the same? Certainly all the schemes aimed in your paper so far would result in me paying very much more, and I know which of us has the higher outgoings to service.

I can see no problems with the present system, provided an adequate rebate scheme is involved for those who really are unable to pay. A. R. Mills, 4, Compton Close, Kinner, Stourbridge, Worcs.

Drivers' uproar

Sir—I can imagine the uproar among motorists which will be engendered by Mr. Kut's suggestion that local rates be levied on them. The implications in Mr. Kut's letter are incorrect, that everyone who can afford a car has one and (b) all car-owners can afford to own and run their vehicles.

The strong case in favour of the suggestion is that motorists should make a greater contribution to the revenue so as to pay their way and cease to be subsidised.

Peter Knottley, 2, Dallas Court, Cheam, Sutton, Surrey.

Another fantasy

Sir—I have another fantasy which might entertain your readers. It is that the local authorities simply provide a service package, for which there should be a standard charge, paid by all resident adults. A solution to the present rates burden malaise, incorporating considerable levying potential? Donald Williscroft, "Colwyn", 82, Armitage Road, Rugley, Staffs.

One free service

Sir—Mr. John Emmerson (August 18) asks where one can obtain a service free of charge.

who need versatility as much as depth and who are liable to disappointment if the world does not happen to want, in the anticipated numbers, the particular brand of specialised knowledge in which they have gained second or third class honours. The proper place for high specialisation is the graduate school. At an earlier stage it is liable to produce misfits and, at the same time, via the conditions of entry required by its practitioners, to produce a grotesque distortion of education in the schools. The system is doubtless conducive to the ease and prestige of the teachers. But its effects are more dubious where the interests of the students and the country at large are concerned. The second danger consists in the expectations of some students concerning the sort of job to which they are entitled on graduation. It is true that a person who has spent laborious years at an institution of higher education is entitled to hope that he (or she) may eventually gain thereby a higher income and more interesting work than might otherwise be possible. It is true, too, that in the past many employers have not known how to make the best use of their graduate recruits.

But neither of these considerations entitle a graduate to expect that the mere fact of graduation at once entitles him to positions of exceptional interest and privilege; and I suspect that there is some danger nowadays that some may think it does and thereby prejudice their chances. Society does not owe graduates a living at any level they choose to set. It is for them to demonstrate, in competition with others, that they have superior contributions to offer. And if they do not approach the labour market in this mood, disappointments are apt to follow.

It would be to lose all sense of proportion, however, to let dangers of the kind I have been discussing deflect public policy from the general principle of adequate expansion to meet the needs of those able and willing to benefit by it. Unsuitable degree courses can be changed and false expectations modified.

While, therefore, I would not argue that there is any direct correlation between production per head and numbers in higher education, I am sure that it would be a bad thing so to change policy that the relation between places available and applications imposed more difficulties than it does at present. I still think that higher education is not only generally conducive to economic development, but also a good thing in

itself, and that it is a mark of the good society that it provides facilities for those who have the requisite qualifications and ambitions. But while this certainly means that there should be no raising of standards to keep down the increase of numbers, it does not mean that the present methods of provision are immune from criticism or incapable of improvement. In fact, I believe that valid criticism can be made both in regard to finance and in regard to tests of motivation, scope for all the talent available, especially from poorer ventures to submit that the time families and among women;

has now come when those who and, for that reason, the receive support for higher education should be required to make some repayment thereof if it results in identifiable material advantage. I have always believed that some arrangement of this sort was dictated by considerations of distributive justice. Free schooling for all who wish to take advantage of it is a just arrangement. But it is not necessarily just to provide, at the expense of the community in general, further educational facilities for the privileged minority who have the qualifications eventually to benefit financially.

In this respect the finance of higher education is on all fours with the finance of research, which is expected to be remunerative, or the foundation

by my bank. On enquiry the bank stated that its charges for this service would amount to four or five pounds. I then sent the form back to the broker unsigned, stating that it was his responsibility to provide a new certificate.

The matter was resolved by getting through on the phone to the company who sanctioned the broker to countersign my signature. A duplicate certificate was issued with no charges involved. L. S. Gostin, Greenways, Weston Underwood, Nr. Olney, Bucks.

Firm price tenders

Sir—In his article of August 18 Mr. Michael Cassell gave a comprehensive account of the problems caused by present requirements for firm price building tenders over a period of two years. There is, however, yet another aspect which should not be overlooked. That is the danger that the present rules will encourage an increase in inefficient and costly building by public authorities' own direct employment of labour forces.

The Government has done much to insist that work should not be given to these organisations without competition from building contractors. But direct labour cannot be bound to firm prices since the client authority being also the building employer must pay all the costs. There is no incentive for direct labour departments to take account of likely cost increases over a two-year period, but every incentive to submit estimates ensuring the award of work to themselves.

Although the outcome will be expensive for the public, the true cost may never be clearly seen. For it is not unknown for direct labour departments to have 'increases in the cost of labour and materials' approved as 'reasonable extras, even though these extras could not be claimed or allowed to contractors. Malcolm Hoppe, Aims of Industry, 5 Plough Place, Fetter Lane, EC4A 1AN.

No charges

Sir—I had a similar experience to Mr. Thorburn (August 18) last year, when a Williams Hudson share certificate went astray. My broker sent me a form of indemnity with the request that I sign and get it countersigned

Fair selection for a degree



Lord Robbins, chairman of the Committee on Higher Education that reported in 1963, reviews the last eight years and suggests two reforms



COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher Education

REPORT

of the Committee appointed by
the Prime Minister
under the Chairmanship of Lord Robbins
1961-63

The 1963 report, which called for expansion. "The prediction that more means worse does not seem to me to have been justified."

advantages for the unsuccessful or for women who marry and do not earn—which deservedly arouse general apprehension. But Professor Prest of the London School of Economics has achieved the distinction of devising a system which at once avoids all these difficulties and seems from the administrative point of view to be easily practicable. Under this scheme, payment is made through machinery of the Inland Revenue and only in so far and when there is positive evidence of gain. The social investment in human capital is financed, so to speak, on an equity basis.

I cannot see any argument against this. If a young man is deterred by the thought that, if he is successful, he will have to repay the advance in appropriate stages, that surely constitutes a presumption that he is unworthy of the initial advantage. To claim that he should not repay is to claim a position of privilege vis-à-vis those who are not so educated.

My second suggestion for change is concerned with what is customary nowadays to call motivation. There can be no doubt that, while in the majority of cases the expansion of recent years has opened the doors of learning to those who appreciate the process, it has also swept in a certain proportion of students who are fundamentally unhappy or at least lack the interest necessary to benefit.

There is a certain fashion in these matters; and it would be quite unrealistic to ignore the presence, in the enlarged higher education population, of a number of young people who are there simply because friends or parents have given them to understand that it is the right thing to do but who yet lack the motive to exploit the opportunity once they have arrived. Their presence is a complication in the work of the institutions and a cause of bitterness and discontent to students so constituted.

Indeed, quite apart from the influence on motivation, which is the prime reason for the proposal, I can see other, not at all inconsiderable, benefits. Is there not a very good case to be made for the view that, at least for subjects of this sort, it is a positive advantage for the student to have had some contact with the world of social and economic reality before learning from books and lectures complex considerations of incentives and machinery of the more esoteric forces which make the world go round?

I would not expect such a proposal to be popular with young people or perhaps with some teachers of the less worldly type. But I submit service between leaving school and coming to the universities, did not exhibit these characteristics. They knew why they wanted to come to institutions of higher education; and they were determined to make the most of the opportunity. The same can certainly be said of

The post-war generation

Now it is certainly the experience of teachers that this sort of attitude is far less frequent among students of more mature years. The post-war generations, who had a period of military service between leaving school and coming to the universities, did not exhibit these characteristics. They knew why they wanted to come to institutions of higher education; and they were determined to make the most of the opportunity. The same can certainly be said of

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No-one really knows what next

Joe Rogaly describes a momentous week in world economic affairs

ANYONE who is puzzled by the economic news of the past week may rest assured that he is not alone. For an honest assessment of what has happened to the Western world since President Nixon announced his new fiscal and monetary policies last Sunday night can be expressed very shortly thus: everything has changed; nobody knows how. The truth is that while the situation may never again be quite the same as it was before Mr. Nixon spoke, no one, from the President himself on down, can really say what will happen next.

This is particularly the case with the broad issues of policy, such as the future relations between the countries of Western Europe and between them and the U.S. In narrow, technical terms, however, the possibilities are easier to outline. It is not difficult to understand this if you start from the position of a week ago, just before the President's speech.

At that time (it is now possible to say with hindsight) the international payments system that had served the Western world well enough since the end of the war was already showing signs of breakdown. This system, established at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, in 1944, was based on a conception of fixed rates of exchange between currencies. These were set in terms of the dollar, or sometimes of gold, and the dollar itself was to be permanently related to gold at the rate of \$35 an ounce.

The International Monetary Fund was created as banker to the new system. Its rules provide that whenever a currency is manifestly of the wrong value (because the international pay-

ments of the economy that supports it are out of balance) there can be an orderly change. Such changes, like Mr. Harold Wilson's devaluation of the pound, have, however, usually been disorderly: a matter of last resort, avoided at great cost until the final possible moment.

This inherent inflexibility is one reason why the system began to break down. Another was fear of a world-wide shortage of official reserves of acceptable money to carry countries over periods of deficit. The most logical way of increasing the supply of this money was to increase the dollar value of gold, but this was strenuously resisted by America for sound political reasons and the substitute—the creation of "paper gold," or Special Drawing Rights—was delayed, for its own political reasons, by France. The first allocation of these Special Drawing Rights came in 1970.

Vietnam war

The most important reason for the breakdown was the growing weakness of the dollar, the currency upon which the whole system rested. The Vietnam war, a series of balance of payments deficits, and a heavy weight of general overseas commitments have all combined to deplete the gold reserves in Fort Knox, with the consequence that the United States has been increasingly unwilling to honour its long-standing agreement to hand over gold (at an ounce for \$35) in exchange for its own dollars spent abroad.

The series of international monetary crises of the past few years have all been related to this growing inconvertibility of the dollar, a situation that has

been most worrisome to the countries that have held dollars in large quantities, like West Germany and Japan.

For all these reasons a number of countries had placed themselves half way out of the Bretton Woods system well before last week. The Canadian dollar has been "floating" (exchanged at a rate set by the market rather than through the IMF's official system) since last year; the D-Mark and the Dutch guilder have been likewise fluctuating since May 10.

In pure technical terms, President Nixon's announcement did no more than render *de jure* (and for a "temporary" period) the *de facto* inconvertibility of the dollar that already existed. But there is a great difference between marriage and living together; between an official fact and an unofficial one. And the first difference, for the majority of the governments of the Western world on Monday morning, was that they now had to make up their minds about what to do next.

And so everything that you have read in the five weekdays following Mr. Nixon's broadcast has related simply to the external manifestations of various Governments in the process of trying to make up their minds, spiced, on occasion, with speculation as to what on earth they might be considering.

Nearly all Governments, save America's and Japan's, closed their foreign exchange markets. This was simply a matter of saying "we are going to let nothing happen until we know what we are going to do." The American President, perhaps a little abashed at his own boldness, despatched Mr. Paul Volcker, under-secretary at the U.S. Treasury, to London and Paris in an effort to placate the Europeans. He failed, and went

home almost as suddenly as he had arrived.

The Japanese Government let its Government's Ministers flying in from their holidays, it seemed worried and furious: worried about the effect on Japanese Finance Ministers might come trade (a third of which is with America) in the light of Mr. Nixon's 10 per cent. surcharge hopes were quickly dashed when

Britain enjoyed a few glorious hours on Tuesday when, its Government's Ministers flying in from their holidays, it seemed worried and furious: worried about the effect on Japanese Finance Ministers might come trade (a third of which is with America) in the light of Mr. Nixon's 10 per cent. surcharge hopes were quickly dashed when

by market forces (possibly through a mechanism for keeping all European currencies in step yet letting them float against the dollar), while the French wanted a two-tier system, with fixed rates for commercial and official transactions and free rates for capital and

place: instead there is a multiplicity of ideas and a future that is unknown. A number of currencies will now probably float alongside the German, Dutch and Canadian moneys, and the result will be a more flexible system of international payments and trading than has been known for at least two generations.

But these are the mere monetary consequences. There are others, far harder to define even as questions and yet far more serious in their possible development. The EEC itself took a further blow on Thursday night when its members so signally failed to agree on anything, most especially the judicious Common Agricultural Policy (which keeps farm prices artificially high) has possibly been handed a slow death sentence by the events of the week.

Relations between the United States and its European allies have been altered, for trust is indivisible, and if a great empire cannot be relied on to act in concert in monetary affairs then those who question, say, American reliability in the event of Russian incursions in Europe will be more seriously heard out.

In Asia, relations between Japan and America have been put under severe strain. Coming on top of Mr. Nixon's proposed visit to China, the situation is now of exceptional severity. In the underdeveloped world, the U.S. cuts in aid will be unpopular. Everywhere outside the U.S., confidence in currencies, and thus in the ability of Governments to control events, has been shaken. The changes inside America are also of importance. Mr. Nixon, a Republican of allegedly conservative leanings, has

adopted a policy of intervention in the economy that he would have himself described as neo-Socialism only half a year ago. Such policies as applied by his Government (including what seems like a botched income policy) will inevitably be studied in other mixed economies where inflation and unemployment have both increased at unacceptable rates. The outcome might affect both economic thinking and politicians' judgments of that thinking.

Unfathomable

Thus the long-run consequences of President Nixon's actions are literally unfathomable. "Everything has changed; nobody knows how" is the only possible summation. The immediate task of governments is, however, clear. It is to find a way of ensuring that there is no degeneration into the economic nationalism of 40 years ago. The competitive erosion of trade barriers of those years was one cause of the world-wide Depression, the Bretton Woods system was designed to guard against a repetition of that sad economic history.

Now President Nixon has put on his 10 per cent. surcharge on imports and the Japanese are muttering darkly about retaliation. The widest issues of policy may remain a mystery, but the present danger is all too evident. This was "perhaps inevitable, given the imperfections of the system that has now been destroyed. The best hope, so far as trade and international payments are concerned, is that the system that has now been invented to replace it, will be better, and more lasting."



U.S. Treasury Secretary John Connally (left) and President Nixon: perhaps a trifle abashed at their own boldness.

on U.S. imports, and furious about being so obviously pressured to increase the value of its own currency, the yen—which would again, in the Japanese view, decrease its sales abroad.

(This is an incidental example of the blindness of the arithmetic approach to economics since the probable truth is that Japan's exports would suffer far less from a modest revaluation of the yen than the Japanese think. The reason is, simply, that the quality of Japanese goods is so high that demand would remain strong.)

it was shown that the only attraction was Mr. Volcker, for so long as he was here. Then Mr. Heath appeared determined to proclaim Britain a good member of the European Economic Community that it proposes to join. The Community, in turn, at first put it about that it would go into its own huddle and that Britain would have to wait an invitation and then later relented and allowed Mr. Anthony Barber to join the tail-end of its deliberations.

On Thursday night these proved fruitless: the Germans wanted a further period of trial

tourist account. Efforts of the Benelux countries and the Commission to mediate proved fruitless: the result was that no internationally concerted action seemed likely.

Meanwhile the Japanese, having been flagellating themselves all week, appeared willing at the end of it to concede that perhaps at some time they would be forced to increase the value of the yen after all.

The one certain thing that can be said about the effect of all this is that the old system of internationally agreed rates of exchange for money is gone. There is no new system in its

Labour News

Average 14% rise for 8,700 tax men

BY MICHAEL HAND, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

SOME 8,700 higher grade tax officers employed by the Inland Revenue will receive pay increases averaging just over 14 per cent as a result of an award announced yesterday by the Civil Service Arbitration Tribunal.

Together with collectors and higher grade valuation clerks their pay is aligned with that of Civil Service general service grades of executive officer and higher clerical officer who received a "catching up" increase of 9 per cent, which was announced in June and backdated to January 1.

But the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, to which the tax officers, collectors and valuation clerks belong, claimed that they could get a higher increase than the general service grades on grounds of greater responsibility and complexity of work.

The arbitration tribunal accepted this argument in the case of the tax officers and awarded pay increases which will add a further 5 per cent to the salary bill (they had been offered 2 per cent in negotiations) but not in the case of the 550 collectors and 500 valuation clerks involved. The total addition to the wage bill will be about £2m.

As a result of the two increases 3,000 of the tax officers will get between 7 and 8 per cent, extra, another 4,000 will get between 14 and 17 per cent, 1,200 will get 17 to 20 per cent, and 500 will get 20 to 21 per cent. This is well above the level of pay increases which the Government will in most cases regard as acceptable at the present time.

The award gives the higher grades tax officers a salary scale ranging between £800 and £2,125 a year. The collectors' scale is now £300 to £2,000 and the higher grade valuation clerks' £1,680 to £2,000.

sanctions against the local engineering employers and these will be stepped up next month when a series of weekly one-day strikes will begin.

This week Chrysler toolroom workers have been refusing to repair a machine in the Avenger engine shop at the Stoke factory in Coventry. This has forced the company to lay off 4,000 workers at the nearby Ryton assembly plant next Monday and 3,000 on Tuesday. The toolroom workers have now agreed to repair the machine on Monday so the flow of engines should be restored in time to enable the company to resume full production on Wednesday.

Conciliators hear BBC case in pay dispute

BY OUR LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

DEPARTMENT of Employment mediators who have been asked by the BBC to help settle its pay dispute with unions representing 4,500 weekly-paid staff yesterday heard details of the employers' case from corporation officials.

Union leaders are expected to go to the Department next Wednesday.

If the dispute is settled, the BBC could well be faced with an industrial action which would disrupt television programmes.

The DE was called in when negotiations between the two sides broke down earlier this week. The corporation has made an overall offer of 9 per cent, but the unions are demanding slightly more for some grades.

£24M. GRANT FOR OPERA HOUSE
On the eve of the 25th Edinburgh Festival, the Government yesterday confirmed that it would make a £24,500,000 grant towards the £4,500,000 cost of building an opera house in the city.

SURVEYS NEXT WEEK

Details in Industry	Monday, August 23
Ireland	Wednesday, August 25
Mr Chartering	Thursday, August 26

Lord Carrington returning from Malta talks to-day

BY RICHARD JOHNS

LORD CARRINGTON, British Defence Secretary, is returning to London to-morrow following two rounds of talks with Mr. Dom Mintoff, the Maltese Prime Minister, on the terms on which British forces can remain in Malta.

Tonight the second session was held after a long hiatus in the afternoon. They had met in the morning for one and a half hours before adjourning the talks at lunchtime. They were expected to have dinner together which at least seemed one positive indicator during a day of almost total silence.

Both sides remained tight-lipped after the exchanges which even at this stage remain exploratory to a surprising degree. British officials are optimistic only to the extent that talks are still continuing.

But the feeling that Mr. Mintoff badly wants a settlement has, if anything, been strengthened. It is believed that the Maltese Premier would in the last analysis hold out for nothing less than £15m. a year in grant form.

Time is drawing short, with the Maltese Government's acute need for cash to tide it over a looming financial crisis. Britain with the help of its NATO partners, is willing to help if the "basis" for agreement on terms can be laid.

In the background is Libya's offer which it is believed would preclude any military presence in Malta. As one British official put it to-day, "Libya is the joker in the pack."

Ignorance about Tripoli's proposals makes Lord Carrington's task in hammering out the basic agreement on which detailed



Lord Carrington

negotiations can take place all the more difficult.

The initial British offer, made with contributions from some NATO countries, which would be a starting point for bargaining, is of £8.5m.—£5m. in the form of cash grant and £3.5m. in economic aid. The margin by which Lord Carrington may increase this is understood to be small.

At the same time, he is apparently not in a position to discuss in detail the "carrot" of the bilateral aid which the NATO countries are willing to negotiate.

A second question concerns the principles on which the British military presence would, if there was a financial agreement, stay.

Before this morning, there had

VALLETTA, August 20.

been no discussion between the British and Maltese Governments on the duration of a treaty. There is still contention over what functions Mr. Mintoff would allow the facilities to be put.

Britain's main concern is the negative one that the Soviet Union should be kept out.

According to reliable Maltese sources, the minimum rental figures which Mr. Mintoff probably has in mind is £15m. all of it in grant form, for exclusive rights for the island's military facilities, although he would ideally want £20m. or more. This compares with his opening bargaining position of £30m.

HQ transfer

Our foreign staff adds: NATO headquarters in Brussels announced yesterday that it will transfer its Mediterranean naval headquarters from Malta to Naples.

The announcement was consistent with the Alliance's Defence Planning Committee's decision of last Friday to withdraw from the island at the request of Mr. Mintoff.

Sources in Brussels said last night that the headquarters of the Allied Naval Forces Southern Europe, which consists mainly of a 300-man communications centre, would be relocated after "a timely transfer" had been arranged by the NATO authorities in consultation with the Maltese Government.

It was emphasised in Brussels and London, however, that the scheduled withdrawal would have no effect on the £8.5m. "package" being discussed by Lord Carrington.

Vauxhall short-time warning a problem for unions

BY MICHAEL HAND, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

VAUXHALL MOTORS' warning that it will probably have to introduce short-time working at its Luton, Dunstable and Ellesmere Port plants from September 20 because of an expected seasonal fall in sales has put the unions in a difficult position.

The management has told them that in the autumn there will be a surplus of labour of some 1,500 out of the total of 30,000 at the three plants. But it has also said that because of the difficulty there would be in finding alternative work at the present time it realises that they would probably be hostile to the idea of men losing their jobs.

Strong reaction
As reported in later editions of yesterday's Financial Times the company has therefore suggested short-time working as an alternative, possibly on the basis that employees would lose two days work every fortnight. The problem for the unions is that if short-time working is adopted as an alternative to redundancy the company would insist on suspending the recently introduced agreement under which workers are paid during periods of lay-off.

This has provoked a strong reaction among shop stewards and union officials, and the issue is certain to come up at next month's meeting of the company's joint negotiating committee on which the management

meets leaders of the unions representing Vauxhall workers, the engineers, vehicle builders and electricians. But it is likely they will feel that they will have to accept short-time working on these terms in view of the present high unemployment, particularly on Merseyside, where the Ellesmere Port plant is sited.

The company has told the unions that production schedules will probably have to be reduced from September 20 "for a few weeks" to adjust to the annual seasonal decline in sales to be expected at that time in most of the company's markets around the world. It says it expects to step up production again some time in the first half of November.

In a statement the company adds: "In the first half of this year Vauxhall improved its share of the home market and increased exports substantially, with Bedford van and truck sales setting new records."

Close review
"In August the Government's recent measures have provided a welcome stimulus to car business in Britain though the truck market is depressed and shows no sign of an upturn so far. But by mid-September the normal seasonal fall in demand for cars and goods vehicles, both at home and overseas, is likely to affect the situation. The position will be kept

under close review and plans will be kept flexible, but in the meantime it is thought desirable to keep employees informed of the likelihood of shorter working hours during the period in question."

Vauxhall's announcement has been made against a background of continuing redundancies in industry. The provisional figure for the first seven months of this year is 213,000 compared with 125,800 between January and July last year and 81,300 in the same period in 1969.

None of the other major car manufacturers are planning to introduce short-time working at this stage, although the difficulties in the commercial vehicle market have already caused British Leyland to dismiss several hundred workers this year. Chrysler also had to put truck workers on short time for a period earlier in the year. Ford is still working to capacity to catch up on demand which accumulated during its nine-week pay strike and is in the process of recruiting an additional 500 workers at its Dagenham plant.

90% OF PHONES NOW ON STD
Over 90 per cent. of Britain's telephone exchange lines now have the subscriber trunk dialling service. The number of exchange lines connected in the U.K. at the end of June was 2,408,897, up 685,536 on a year ago.

Dock labour cuts sought

BY ALEX HENDRY, LABOUR REPORTER

BRITAIN'S port employers are such as containers, is mainly gnes. But employers now feel expected soon to put proposals for a substantial reduction in the size of the national dock labour force to union leaders.

There are 46,000 dock workers in the country, and port employers reckon that by the end of the year this will be more than 6,000 in excess of what is needed.

The rapid development of cargo-handling improvements, workers to handle conveyer-

responsible for the overmanning. The employers are considering asking for changes in the dock labour scheme which prevents a docker being dismissed from the industry except for misconduct. Where a man cannot be found work—unattached—he receives fall-back pay from a fund supported by employers.

The scheme dates back to wartime when it was necessary to have a permanent force of dock workers to handle conveyer-

that men can be dismissed from the docks in the same way as labour scheme which prevents a docker being dismissed from other industries.

London port employers recently told union leaders that there would have to be a reduction of the 800 light-duty men employed in the enclosed docks. The unions have rejected any idea of co-operating on this and told the employers that it is a management problem.

ROLLS-ROYCE

1971 (April) Silver Shadow saloon; Midnight Blue with Blue hide; air conditioning; Recorded mileage: 4,000	£9,750
1970 (Nov.) Silver Shadow saloon; Regal Red with Black hide; air conditioning; Recorded mileage: 7,000	£9,500
1969 (Oct.) Silver Shadow saloon; Seychelle Blue and Shell Grey with Blue hide; air conditioning; Recorded mileage: 9,000	£8,650
1969 (Dec.) Silver Shadow saloon; Black and White with Black hide; air conditioning; Recorded mileage: 30,000	£7,950

1970 (Dec.) Silver Shadow saloon; Regal Red with Beige hide; air conditioning; Recorded mileage: 7,000	£9,500
1970 (July) Silver Shadow saloon; Black and Garnet with Black hide; air conditioning; Recorded mileage: 10,000	£9,350
1969 (Oct.) Silver Shadow saloon; Shell Grey with Blue hide; Recorded mileage: 23,000	£8,250
1969 (Jan.) Silver Shadow saloon; Velvet Green with Beige hide; Recorded mileage: 6,000	£7,950

COACHBUILT

1970 (Oct.) Silver Shadow Two-door saloon by H. J. Mulliner, Park Ward; Black over Shell Grey with Black hide; air conditioning; Recorded mileage: 5,000	£11,500
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1968 (Aug.) Silver Shadow Two-door Convertible by H. J. Mulliner, Park Ward; Regal Red with Beige hide; Recorded mileage: 27,000	£8,750
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COMPANY NEWS COMMENT

John Peters record—2% extra & scrip

REPORTING the fresh record of 1971, the directors of John Peters (Furnishing Stores) are raising the dividend by 2 per cent to 10 pence, with a final recommendation of 15 pence.

They also propose making a one-for-five scrip issue and expect, assuming trading conditions continue as at present, to maintain 10 per cent next year on the enlarged capital.

Following the half-year rise from £232,097 to £347,204, the year's pre-tax profit shows an advance from £758,539 to £2,690,462, after a provision of £98,539 (£31,577) for an increase in the deferred profit reserve. The previous record profit was the £584,390 of 1968-69.

The group has a provision for deferred profit carried forward into future years of £545,988 against £447,149 last year.

Mr. Manny Cussins, chairman, has said his enthusiasm for the interim and final dividends. It has been agreed with the Inland Revenue that the company ceased to be a close company within the provisions of the Finance Act, 1965 on April 11, 1967.

Gripperrods lifts total by 10%

A FINAL dividend of 20 pence by Gripperrods Holdings, effective from September 1, will take the total for the year to 35 pence for the year to April 30, 1971.

Group profit advanced from £187,835 to £232,428 after a first half increase from £90,969 to £108,352.

The year's net figure was £140,888 compared with £103,840 after tax of £91,360 (£81,735).

The company, manufacturers of gripper rods, has also increased its "Golden Gripper" carpet installation grippers and edging devices.

Gripperrods has pushed ahead faster still in the second half of 1970-71 with profits up 29 per cent pre-tax for an annual gain of 24 per cent. Aside from some minor fluctuations in March via devaluation, the group has continued to keep prices static. That speaks volumes for internal efficiency against a sales rise of 10 per cent, and two major wage awards plus inflation generally, and a static performance from the engineering subsidiary (18 per cent of total profits). Gripperrods reckons its pricing policy is having a noticeable impact on market shares, and that is coinciding with a better carpet trend. First quarter 1971 manufacturers' sales are 6 per cent higher in volume (17 per cent in value). At 55p a pair of 8.9 slips to 8.3 annualising the second half 1970-71 performance.

Bellair Cosmetics

Profit, before tax of Bellair Cosmetics for the nine months to June 30, 1971, amounted to £80,128, against £82,968 for the six months ended March 31, 1970. For the nine months to June 30, 1971, the company has deducted the loss incurred by Saga of Bond Street of £31,645 for 11 months.

Saga was acquired on August 1, 1970, and during the latest period the manufacturing activities transferred from Slough to the group's headquarters at Winsford. This had a temporary disrupting effect on turnover.

However, Saga became profitable during this period and is expected to contribute to group profits for the remaining six months of the current period ending December 31, 1971, having been in the red for the first six months of the period.

Although interim figures are not usually much of a guide to a company's progress, especially when profits are taken on contract completion—Robert Douglas' annual profit advance of 51 per cent before tax pleased the market after the interim fall of 35 per cent. In any event the shares rose to a new 1971 high of 87p where on earnings of 10p a share (against an adjusted 91p in 1970) they are selling on a 8 1/2 times price.

Results due next week

August draws to a close next week and the list of company results remains level. Such "games" as there are appear limited to tobacco major Carreras, and London Brick. The two should provide some cheer.

Carreras was 8 per cent ahead before tax after six months, but the interest at the time centred on the forecast for 1970-71 as a whole. That, in fact, was pre-tax and prospective 25 per cent growth (the figures are due on Monday). London Brick on the other hand is a recovery situation. Better trading conditions and capacity cutbacks did the trick in the latter part of 1970 and further recovery was expected for 1971. The interim is out on Thursday, and five-month brick sales were up 10 per cent ahead of the depressed 1970 period.

Also coming up for an airing are a couple of current market favourites. Rendell (p/e 22) and Telefusion (28) accounts was mixed on 1971 prospects. Telefusion had a steady 1970 with profits up 6 per cent overall pre-tax. Pinpointing the market, Rendell has performed impressively. Pre-tax growth in 1970 was 24 per cent, and 1971 was expected to prove another good year. Colour TV growth prospects are what underpins

INDEX TO COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS					
COMPANY	Page	Col.	COMPANY	Page	Col.
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Amal. Roadstone	24	6	Loyds Retailers	24	2
Bellair	16	1	Masson Scott	24	2
Benford Concrete	16	4	Peek Winch	24	1
Douglas (Robert M.)	16	2	Peters (John)	16	1
Gripperrods	16	1	Relyon P.B.W.S.	16	4
Hammond (L.)	24	5	S.E.E.T.	16	2
Hazell (Quinton)	24	1	Stigwood (Robert)	16	3
Kodak	24	4	Venesta	16	4
Lees (John J.)	24	3	Williamson Tea	16	8

SEET profit £54,775: no dividend

THE SHARP profit reduction indicated last April by Scottish English and Textiles turned out to be from £307,700 to £54,775 at the pre-tax level for the year to April 30, 1971.

There is no dividend, against a total of 12p per share for the previous year, but the directors hope to recommend not less than 4 pence for the current year of which an interim will be paid in January.

They report that trading in the first quarter and prospects for the rest of the period indicate results for 1971-72 "will be significantly better" than for the year just ended.

1970-71	1969-70
Trading profit	162,194
Investment income	34,682
Management expenses	45,311
Interest paid	65,347
Income tax	3,718
Profit before tax	178,796
Minority interests	23,013
Pre-acquisition	10,058
	30,421

Second half pre-tax profits have declined more rapidly for SEET, and the full year comes out 82 per cent lower and much worse than envisaged a year ago. Turnover fell by about 8 per cent, with export sales dropping to 33 per cent from 40 per cent of the total. But a slight change of fortune is expected for 1971-72. One reason for the optimism rests with the forecast dividend of 4 pence, which will be covered, implying prospective pre-tax profits of £95,000. That would drop an historic p/e at 11p from 44 to near 13.7.

Robert M. Douglas on target

AS FORESHADOWED, Robert M. Douglas (Contractors) is maintaining its dividend total at 20 pence for the year to March 31, 1971, with an unchanged 15 per cent Ordinary dividend received by its shareholders.

After being down from £813,000 to £403,000 in the first six months, the pre-tax group profit shows an improvement over the full year from £989,452 to £1,045,329. Directors had indicated a satisfactory level fully adequate to maintain the distribution.

Trading profit for the nine months to June 30, 1971, amounted to £1,045,329, against £989,452 for the six months ended March 31, 1970. For the nine months to June 30, 1971, the company has deducted the loss incurred by Saga of Bond Street of £31,645 for 11 months.

Saga was acquired on August 1, 1970, and during the latest period the manufacturing activities transferred from Slough to the group's headquarters at Winsford. This had a temporary disrupting effect on turnover.

However, Saga became profitable during this period and is expected to contribute to group profits for the remaining six months of the current period ending December 31, 1971, having been in the red for the first six months of the period.

Although interim figures are not usually much of a guide to a company's progress, especially when profits are taken on contract completion—Robert Douglas' annual profit advance of 51 per cent before tax pleased the market after the interim fall of 35 per cent. In any event the shares rose to a new 1971 high of 87p where on earnings of 10p a share (against an adjusted 91p in 1970) they are selling on a 8 1/2 times price.

Stigwood confirms estimates

Directors of the Robert Stigwood Group confirm their earlier statement that results for the year to September 30, 1971, will not be materially different from the previous year's.

As forecast in the August 1970 prospectus, a 7 1/2 per cent Ordinary dividend is declared. The offer for sale to new 1971 high of 87p where on earnings of 10p a share (against an adjusted 91p in 1970) they are selling on a 8 1/2 times price.

Relyon forecasts 5% rise

multiple. But for inflation taking a heavy toll of the group's recent high proportion of fixed price engineering contracts, group profits would have been even higher with all the other divisions moving well ahead. Here the group was able to pass on price increases fairly rapidly. In the first five months of the current year, the group's plant hire and raw material divisions have continued well with the volume of work up on a year ago. Against this, however, the engineering side still looks dull and until this all-important division picks up (about 40 per cent of the turnover) the group for the public sector, the shares are unlikely to go much higher.

Lotus expects to top £1m.

FOOTWEAR manufacturers Lotus expects a group profit, before tax, of over £500,000 for 1971, which would compare with £340,000 last year.

Following a substantial increase from £87,000 to £229,000 in the first half, the directors say they expect the second half will be comparable to last year's £273,000. An interim dividend of 3 1/2 pence is declared. For the previous year there was a single payment of 5 pence.

Sales of branded footwear have increased substantially. Factory production has been maintained at a high level, and orders on hand are satisfactory. There has also been an improvement in trading of the retail subsidiary.

Benford Concrete up at midway

FIRST-HALF profits of Benford Concrete Machinery increased from £335,000 to £380,000 before tax of £182,000 against £155,000. The interim is an unchanged 10 pence. In the year 1970, the total was 42 pence on pre-tax profits of £755,000.

With a gain of 13 per cent in first half profits, Benford Concrete has started 1971 as it finished 1970. Once again the bulk of the growth came from Benford with Walker Bros. (galvanising) chipping in a useful contribution. Although the sales split between U.K. and exports remained at roughly 60:40 respectively, the home market was far from buoyant. Demand for small mixers was fairly good, presumably reflecting the increase in house starts, but otherwise little improvement was seen. The second half is unlikely to see much deviation from this trading picture. The forecast profit of £380,000 on a p/e of 10.7 on 35p is a hardy looking for much else.

Venesta sees improvement

No improvement was shown by Venesta International in the first two months of its current year when there were normally poor trading conditions in the materials. However, there have recently been signs of an improvement and it is anticipated there will be an increase in second-half profits.

This was the picture outlined by Mr. R. W. S. Plumley, chairman, at the annual meeting. Shareholders are said to have been told that the company is in a strong position to meet the second half and other activities. It was believed that the worst has now over in relation to the group reorganisation.

UNIT TRUSTS

Save and Prosper is offering units in its property fund at 101.5p per unit on September 16 for a minimum single premium investment of £100. A Save-Insure-and-Prosper Plan is also available for a minimum monthly premium of £10.

A withdrawal facility can also be arranged for investments of over £1,000, giving the policyholder the option of annual rates for 10 per cent, or 8 per cent, free of income tax and capital gains tax. Surplus payers, however, may be liable.

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DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

Company	Current payment	Date of payment	Corresponding div. %	Total last year %	Total last year %
Abercom	111 pence	Oct. 1	6.67	12p	6.67p
Amalgamated Roadstone	112p	Sept. 7	7	8	10
Baraona Tea	(h) 111	Sept. 24	10	10	43
Bellair Cosmetics	10	Sept. 30	3 1/2	4	3 1/2
Benford Concrete	10	Sept. 7	15	20	37 1/2
Castings	10	Sept. 15	15	20	37 1/2
Dolei Tea	(d) 15	Oct. 15	15	20	37 1/2
Robt. Douglas	20	Oct. 25	12 1/2	35	12 1/2
Easi Rand Const.	20	Sept. 25	3p	5p	5p
Gripperrods	3p	Oct. 8	3p	5p	5p
Hammond (L.)	10	Oct. 21	10	11	21
Jersey External Tel.	11	Oct. 21	10	11	21
Lotus	20	Sept. 7	13	19	20
Masson Scott Thirlwell	15	Nov. 3	13	19	20
Midhurst Whites	10	Oct. 15	6 1/2	(G)	20
Noyapara Tea	10	Oct. 15	7 1/2	Nil	12 1/2
John Peters	(e) 17 1/2	Oct. 15	4	6	12
Photax (London)	8	Oct. 15	6	8	6
Relyon	10	Oct. 15	6	8	6
Scottish English and European Textiles	Nil	Oct. 15	7 1/2	Nil	12 1/2
Robt. Stigwood	(e) 17 1/2	Oct. 15	4	6	12
U.S. Overseas Inv.	10	Oct. 15	6	8	6
Williamson Tea	8	Oct. 15	6	8	6

* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. 1. Amount per share. (a) Tax free. (b) On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition. (c) Tax free. (d) 14 cents was forecast in introduction statement. (e) Corrected. (f) As forecast in August 1970 prospectus. (g) For 15 months. (h) Minimum 25 pence, total is forecast. (i) In respect of 15 months.

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Save & Prosper Property Fund

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JESSEL GOLD & GENERAL

Units in Jessel Britannia's Gold and General Unit Trust are available at 87.5p each until August 27, 1971. The estimated gross yield is 2.54 per cent and the minimum investment 100 units.

Jessel Gold and General Unit Trust has a good investment record. Growth since inception in 1964 comparing with a 15 per cent rise in the Financial Times Industrial Ordinary Index and a 9 per cent drop in the Financial Times Gold Mining Index. However, the Financial Times Actuarial All-Share Index—accepted as difficult to beat—has appreciated by 98.2 per cent over the period. Against Gold and General's 47.1 per cent growth—both including reinvested income and allowing for notional capital gains—there is a considerable margin. The fact that a purchase should still be on long-term considerations rather than a speculation.

ABBEEY PROPERTY BOND OFFER

Abbey Life Assurance is offering units in its Property Fund at 1.18 each until September 7 for £150. The fund is made up of investments of £1,000 and upwards. Policyholders may opt for the withdrawal scheme which

RESULTS AND ACCOUNTS IN BRIEF

CASTER GROUP—Results for year to March 31, 1971, with directors' comments on profits, losses, and assets. The group's assets at March 31, 1971, were £1,000,000. The group's liabilities at March 31, 1971, were £500,000. The group's net assets at March 31, 1971, were £500,000. The group's profit for the year to March 31, 1971, was £100,000. The group's dividend for the year to March 31, 1971, was 10 pence.

LEONARD TAYLOR—Results for year to March 31, 1971, with directors' comments on profits, losses, and assets. The group's assets at March 31, 1971, were £1,000,000. The group's liabilities at March 31, 1971, were £500,000. The group's net assets at March 31, 1971, were £500,000. The group's profit for the year to March 31, 1971, was £100,000. The group's dividend for the year to March 31, 1971, was 10 pence.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRIAL TRUST—Results for year to March 31, 1971, with directors' comments on profits, losses, and assets. The group's assets at March 31, 1971, were £1,000,000. The group's liabilities at March 31, 1971, were £500,000. The group's net assets at March 31, 1971, were £500,000. The group's profit for the year to March 31, 1971, was £100,000. The group's dividend for the year to March 31, 1971, was 10 pence.

BIDS AND DEALS

Bristol St. lifts bid for Bluemel

IN THE face of stiff opposition from the Board of Bluemel Bros. to its two earlier offers, the Bristol Street Group has again increased its bid for the company. The new terms value Bluemel at £1.55m, or 100p a share, and BSG stresses that this will be its final offer.

Shortly after BSG announced its latest terms yesterday, Bluemel's chairman, Mr. E. J. Scott, sent out a further letter to holders urging them to reject BSG's second bid worth 50p a share. Mr. Scott has anticipated BSG's latest move and advises holders they may receive a further revised offer. If this happens, he says, they should take no action until he writes to them again.

BSG's new terms are seven Ordinary, yesterday up 2p to 130p, plus 10p of scrip, for every 100 shares of Bluemel. This gives each Bluemel at 100p, taking the loan stock at par, compared with a market value of 80p. The offer closes on September 3.

A big increase in the capital value of Bluemel shares and a 35 per cent rise in income are among BSG's arguments in favour of its offer.

In addition, BSG says the exit price-earnings ratio for Bluemel is 18.4 times historical earnings and 15.6 times forward earnings. This compares with an adjusted p/e multiple of the Financial Times Actuarial Index of 15.2 times historical earnings. The Financial Times Actuarial Index multiple of over 22 times referred to by Bluemel was "grossly misleading," argues BSG. This is because the p/e is based on the inclusion of a major motor manufacturing group which, for the last financial year, disregarding exceptional credits, incurred a large loss.

BSG feels that Bluemel's profit forecast is disappointing. It is "entirely satisfied that there are numerous commercial advantages to this merger."

USH-Avimo forecasts

The formal offer document relating to the agreed offer by United Scientific Holdings for the shares of U.S. Holdings, which is now being sent out by Edward Bates Mounhall, contains profit forecasts for both companies. U.S.H. is forecasting a pre-tax profit of between £340,000 and £380,000 for the year to end-September compared with £230,000 the previous year.

Avimo is forecasting £150,000 for the 12 months to end-September, struck after taking into account the sale of shares in subsidiaries to Fairway for approximately £200,000.

The combined group will have an order book of approximately £4m, which is more than double the figure at the same date last year. U.S.H. already owns 55.2 per cent of Avimo which it purchased at the end of June. The combined group's earnings have been consolidated since that date, but are more or less offset by interest charges on the money borrowed to finance the purchase.

NORTHBOROUGH

Documents in respect of the agreed 72p a share offer by Mr. Leslie Vale and associates for shares not owned in Northborough Securities from August 1, 1971, are being sent out shortly. The offer follows the agreement reached last month by Mr. Vale and his associates to acquire 415,000 Northborough shares from the Trust, 200,000 of which are held by the Trust's subsidiaries to Fairway for approximately £200,000.

Meanwhile, there have been Board changes at Northborough. Mr. C. Selmes, Mr. G. H. C. Clay and Mr. P. D. Kelly have retired and are replaced by Mr. Larry L. Smith, Mr. H. R. Townin and Mr. H. Bart-Smith.

SWS (S. AFRICA)

In yesterday's report on the Slater Walker Securities (South Africa) acquisition, it was stated that SWSman not already owned, the value put on the Slater shares under the terms was given as R6.5 (380p). This should have been R2.62 (130p) a share, taking the SWS (SA) shares at 340p.

Hemdale—Constellation

Hemdale Group yesterday confirmed reports that it is making an offer for Constellation Investments, the trust for show business people which turns their income into capital. The offer has the recommendation of the Constellation Board.

Jessel Securities recently announced its own agreed offer for Constellation shares not already owned. Since then, however, Hemdale has been making an offer for Constellation shares not already owned. The offer has the recommendation of the Constellation Board.

The Hemdale terms are shares and convertible loan stock underwritten to give a cash value of 38p for each "A" and 20p for each Ordinary share. This compares with the Hemdale terms of 34p for the "A" and 15p for the Ordinary.

Holders of Constellation convertible loan stock and those with options to acquire such stock will do for the higher of either the par value of the stock or, assuming conversion into "A" Ordinary, the cash value of the share offer. Stock which is convertible will be given the value of the share offer together with a compound annual growth rate of 5 per cent, payable on redemption. To secure this latter obligation, a trust fund will be established.

For Jessel which has managed Constellation, the sale of its interest will probably come as a relief. The cash value of the share offer is 38p, which is higher than the value of the share offer together with a compound annual growth rate of 5 per cent, payable on redemption. To secure this latter obligation, a trust fund will be established.

BURNHOLME & FORDER

Within the next fortnight Beechmount Investment Company proposes to acquire from Channel International Trust 200,000 ordinary shares of 10p each in Burnholme and Forder. Aggregate price will be 30p per share, including the option cost of 8p per share, as set out in the circular to shareholders.

Mr. P. H. Robinson has resigned from the Burnholme and Forder Board.

MILLAR AND LANG

The take-over battle for Millar and Lang, Glasgow art publishers, passed yesterday to the hands of Gordon Currie and his associates announced through brokers that they were no longer interested in bidding, with or without the directors' approval, in view of a deal for the company's shares at 85p. The bid by Mount Securities of 75p in cash still stands.

SAUNDERS VALVE

The formal offer relating to the 25p cash offer from Gallacher for Saunders Valve is expected to be a letter of recommendation from the Saunders chairman, Mr. P. T. Stenhouse. The offer comments that Saunders will need substantial sums in the future to provide further working capital and additional fixed assets, and that the Gallacher offer is intended to provide support for this nature is likely to be of considerable assistance.

WM. REED

The foreshadowed offer from Dowgate and General Investments for the capital of William Reed and Sons not already owned has now been sent out by Capel-Curdie, Carden and Co. The offer is 52 1/2 pence of Reed at a cumulative dividend price of 25p and underlock to make an offer on the same terms to other holders. Terms are 25p per share in cash, but holders will retain the right to the proposed final dividend of 11p a share, equivalent to 12p after tax.

PRICE & PIERCE

Acceptances of the offer on behalf of Tozer Kemsley and Millburn (Holdings) for Price and Pierce (Trustee Company) have now been received. The offer is over 95 per cent of the Ordinary and over 80 per cent of the Preference shares.

The offer has been declared unconditional subject to the approval of the necessary resolutions at meetings to be held on August 23. They remain open, but the cash offer by Lazard Brothers and Co. to acquire the convertible loan stock of TKM at par is closed.

GRA/SHAWFIELD

The offer by GRA Property to acquire the 1,795,000 shares of Shawfield Greyhound not already owned has been accepted in respect of 1,238,575 shares (69.01 per cent). It has become unconditional, but remains open.

Williamson Tea pays 2% more

THE directors of Williamson Tea Holdings are raising the dividend by 2 pence to 8 pence for the year 1970.

Group pre-tax profits rose sharply from £393,427 to £678,859 after tax, £284,991 (£206,961). The net profit was £391,988 against £181,446.

Company	Announcement	Dividend %	This year	Last year
Capital and Counties Property	Thursday	3	31	31
Carreras	Monday	24 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
Castings	Monday	24 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
Courtesy Pope (Holdings)	Monday	24 1/2	11 1/2	11 1/2
Cowan de Groot	Friday	10	22	10
Edwards	Monday	10	22	10
William Donby and Sons	Monday	12	12	12
Drury Holdings	Thursday	11 1/2	12 1/2	11 1/2
Edwards	Monday	10	22	10
Edwards Property Investment	Wednesday	10	22	10
Guilford Brindley	Thursday	20	30	20
Frank G. G.	Thursday	20	30	20
A. and J. Gifford	Thursday	20	30	20
Gieves Organisation	Monday	20	30	20
Hallite Holdings	Wednesday	20	30	20
Hawthorn Investments	Monday	20	30	20
Jentice (Holdings)	Monday	20	30	20
Joseph Holdings	Monday	20	30	20

WALL STREET + OVERSEAS MARKETS + LATEST PRICES

Cautious but reaction halted

BY OUR WALL STREET CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, August 20.

THE RECENT REACTION, after the sharp two day advance, was halted on Wall Street to-day, when a slightly higher tendency developed in further reduced activity.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average firmed 0.14 to 880.91, for a rise of 24.89 on the week, while the NYSE All Common Index, at 854.38, was up 10 cents on the day and \$1.50 on the week.

Volume further decreased 2.3m. shares to 11.89m., and had fallen steadily from the all-time record of 31.72m. of last Monday.

Caution ahead of foreign currency market openings on Monday, and questions on the short-term difficulties of President Nixon's new economic policies seemed to offset bullish U.S. economic indicators released during the day.

Indices

NEW YORK

DOW JONES AVERAGES

Close	High	Low	Open	Prev. Close
880.91	881.50	879.50	879.50	879.50

Close	High	Low	Open	Prev. Close
854.38	855.00	853.50	853.50	853.50

Close	High	Low	Open	Prev. Close
11.89	11.90	11.88	11.88	11.88

Close	High	Low	Open	Prev. Close
11.89	11.90	11.88	11.88	11.88

Close	High	Low	Open	Prev. Close
11.89	11.90	11.88	11.88	11.88

Close	High	Low	Open	Prev. Close
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Close	High	Low	Open	Prev. Close
11.89	11.90	11.88	11.88	11.88

Close	High	Low	Open	Prev. Close
11.89	11.90	11.88	11.88	11.88

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STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Markets in better heart at end of disturbed week

Index up 4.3 at 409.4—Medium-dated Gilts in demand

ACCOUNT DEALING DATES

Option

First Declara- Last Account

Dealings 110s Dealings Day

Aug. 23 Sept. 2 Sept. 3 Sept. 14

Sept. 6 Sept. 16 Sept. 17 Sept. 28

New time dealings may take place

on 5 a.m. three business days earlier

Equities staged a good rally

yesterday, the last day of the

Account, following a fairly con-

fusion state of affairs for the

greater part of this past week on

the U.S. economic measures. Yester-

day's better buying interest,

mainly on account of profes-

sional operators, reflected expec-

tations of an imminent statement

on official thinking about the

international currency situation;

hopes were also being expressed

about a Bank Rate cut being part

of an early move by the U.K. The

Bank Rate had inspired a good

demand for gilt-edged securities,

particularly medium-dated issues

which showed gains of up to 3.

The Financial Times Industrial

Ordinary share index rose 4.3 to

409.4, but still left a fall of 3.2

on the week. However, the pre-

vious week's rise saw an overall

advance on the Account of 13.5.

Yesterday's improvement was on

a broader basis, as reflected by

risers and falls in all F.T.-quoted

industries which were nearly in

balance; on Thursday, falls were

in three-to-two majority. In-

creased activity was also seen in

bargains marked at 10.75 com-

pared with 10.68 the previous day

and only 9.38 on Wednesday.

South African Golds were a shade

higher, after a fall of 0.5, to

5.51, while the London Metal

index recorded its fourth suc-

cessive fall of 5.3, down 0.5,

making a loss since Tuesday of 5.8,

or nearly 9 per cent.

Good feeling in Gilts

Long-dated gilt-edged, up 4

per cent, were held in

back by a stock

exchange of 51 per cent, the

price of which was raised

another 0.6. But strong hopes

about an early cut in Bank Rate

could not reflect in some

giving of medium-dated issues

which, in a thin market, often

rose by 50p. There was a reason-

able turnover in the shorts, as

good deal of it on switching to

longer, actual price changes

were few but rises of around 1

per cent were seen in 1976 redemptions.

Turnover in Corporations was

small, but included some good

line with the main funds; Com-

monwealth issues, however, were

neglected and often gave a little

ground. International Bank 8 per

cent, attracted some sub-

stantial buying orders and gained

11 to 102 1/2 for a rise of 2 1/2

dealings started at last Mon-

day.

Sellers again predominated in

the investment dollar market and

the premium gave up another 1

at 25 1/2, to 149 1/2, on the week.

Japanese Euro-

dollar bonds steadied after the

sharp decline earlier in the week.

In recent issues, Berwick

Timpo met profit-taking after 3 1/2

per cent, good rise and gave up 3

at 18 1/2, to 149 1/2, on the week.

Canadian invest-

ments put up 2p more to 163p for

a week's rise of 17p.

"Royals" up again

Dealers reported a disappoint-

ing day's business in insurances

and prices mainly held steady,

but "Royals" made further good

progress on the afternoon half-

price, and another 1 1/2

up to a 1971 "high" of 407p for

a two-day rise of 22p. Legal and

General improved 4p to 332p, but

East India reacted 5p to 418p.

Lloyds brokers were fairly steady,

apart from L. Hammond, who

fell sharply to 90p in the "after-

hours" dealings before ending

on 100p on the day at 100p on

disappointment with the lower

prices.

Home Banks were rather quiet

again, but prices moved steadily

ahead to close with fresh advances

extending to 12p, as in Barclays,

18 1/2p, National Westminster ended

10p higher at 505p. National

Commercers 3p better at 455p.

Union were noteworthy in

Discount Houses for a rise of

15p to 415p. Although little busi-

ness took place in firm Hire

Purchase and Finance, 21 1/2p

and First National Finance rose

to 345p, both peaks for the year.

After recent weakness on fears

of the effects of the U.S. import

surcharge, Distillers met support

at 150p, after 157p. Elsewhere,

the fall on the week to 81p. Small

price gains predominated in

expected September 8. Midland

were lifted 1p to peak for the

week at 215p, but the improve-

ment was not reflected in the

results. Rank Organisation, a

company of 21p, rose 1p to 25p.

Trading statements or results

made for firmness in selected

Engineering. The sharply in-

creased profits and proposed scrip

issue helped W. Allen rise 3p

to 102p, while the improve-

ment in interim figures brought a 4p

gain to 56p in Messon Scott

Thames. Following the chair-

man's confident statement, How-

den Group put up 3p to 71p and

in response to an investment

recommendation. Hatfield-

Electric rose 5p to 185p. Lead-

ing stocks, apart from Vickers,

rose 2 1/2p to 70p, were

barely changed. Included among

the few dull spots were

Rotary, down at 62p, after 58p,

and BHD, a further 4p at 180p.

Babcock and Wilcox reacted to

25p before closing 5p easier

on balance at 202p. In contras-

to the general equity trend,

Alfred Herbert were supported

and rose 4p to 55p.

Much of the interest in quiet

Properties centred on Capital and

Counties which, ahead of Thurs-

day's preliminary results, rose 5p

to 80p, smaller speculative

demand raised Bradford 3p more

to 150p, while Land Investors

revived with a 4p gain to 124p.

Reed International and Bowater

both moved 5p higher to 222p

and 181p respectively in an otherwise

flat market.

Reflecting the apparent end

of the Boardroom dispute, Trust

Houses Forte rose 4p to 126p.

Glaxo were a good market at

381p, up 5p, while Boots improved

to 205p. Beecham, however,

reacted 4p to 322p. Reeves and

Sons were an erratic market on

speculative interest and, after

opening higher at 210p, fell back

to 185p before ending 3p down on

the day at 195p. Associated

Leisure fell 3p to 11p in response

to adverse Press comment, while

Robert Stigwood, up at 65p,

was a late dull spot on the

results. Rank Organisation, a

company of 21p, rose 1p to 25p.

Building issues generally made

progress but changes were usually

small. M. P. Harris rose 7p to

205p, while gains of 3p were seen

in Brick Lane and in B. C.

135p. Robert M. Douglas gained

3p to 87p in response to the

higher profits, while Marley were

up 1p better at 109p ahead of Mon-

day's third-quarter figures. Dale-

holme were also firm at 28p, up

4p; the interim results are expected

next Thursday. Bedford-Corn-

store, however, eased 3p to 67p on

the lower profits, while other dull

spots included Bimtis, 3p lower at

80p, and Northern Developments,

6p off at 234p.

ICI improved 4p to 325p after

a reasonable day's business; the

second-quarter figures are due

soon. Gains of 3p were seen in

British Benzol, 103p, and York-

shire Chemicals, 225p.

On the bid front, A. and S.

Henry put up 1p more to 72 1/2p

in sympathy with United Dairies

on a shade higher bid, 60p,

making the value of the latter's

bid 60p per share.

Freemans (London)

Freemans (London) attracted

interest, in sympathy, and closed

8p better at 156p. Gratian Ware-

houses, however, fell 4p to 155p

and Halways 7p to 253p, the last

mentioned following Press com-

ment. In Stores, Lloyds Retailers

were a prominent dull spot at

7p, down 1p, after the dismal

year-end statement. Cornhill

Dresses put up 2p to 18p,

while gains of 3p were seen in

A. Henriques, 37p, and Robert

Henry Taylor, 73p. Also firm

were Debenhams, 4p better at

229p.

In Shoes, Lotus hardened 1p

to 52p on the sharply higher half-

yearly profits. Church, however,

reacted 5p to 97p; the latter's

interim results are due soon.

Business was again on a small

scale in leading Electricals,

although BICC closed 6p firmer

100

Mr. Robert Keith to be unions Chief Registrar

BY ELSBETH GANGUIN

MR. ROBERT Farquharson Keith, at present an Under-Secretary in the Department of Employment, is to be the Chief Registrar of Trade Unions and Employers' Associations under the Industrial Relations Act 1971, it was announced yesterday.

Mr. Keith, 53, joined the Ministry of Labour in 1948. He served in the Ministry's employment and industrial divisions for some time.

It is expected that his new office will come into operation on October 1. There will be three assistant Registrars, one for England, one for Scotland and one for Wales.

A fundamental feature of the Industrial Relations Act is that only workers and employers' organisations which register with the Registrar will have certain privileges and immunities under the law from actions for inducing a breach of contract. To

retain registration they must satisfy the Registrar that their rules meet certain minimum standards set out in the Act.

The Chief Registrar's job will, therefore, be the maintenance of a register, ensuring that the rules of thus registered organisations conform to the standards set out in the Act, protecting the rights of trade union members, and to see that registered trade unions and employers' associations are properly administered.

The Registrar will have powers to investigate complaints concerning the conduct of registered organisations, to try to reach a settlement, and to take unresolved cases to the Industrial Court or to an industrial tribunal for adjudication.

He will also have power to apply to the Industrial Court for cancellation of the registration of a trade union or employers' association.

Burton to open boys' shops soon

THE BURTON Group is to open the first four of its chain of boys' shops specialising in casual wear for the five-to-15-year age group in the London area before the end of the month.

The new chain is to be called "Orange Hand" and the first shops will be in Golders Green, Watford, West Ruislip and Kingston.

This will be followed by three more to be opened in Manchester, Cropton and Wembley by the autumn.

The development represents the group's bid to move into the fast-growing male teenage fashion market and to rely less on Burton's traditional dark-suited male business wear.

Of £70m. spent annually on boys' wear, less than 15 per cent. goes on school clothing. The group sees the chain as operating in a potential market worth at least £50m.

Favourable

The long-term growth of this section of the trade also appears favourable. In 1969 there were 15m. boys aged between five and 15 and the number is expected to increase to 20m. by 1975.

Mr. Ladislav Rice, group chief executive, said yesterday: "We are treating it as a carefully controlled experiment and will monitor results on a week-by-week basis."

The chain will operate as part of the group's retail division under the direction of Mr. Cyril Spencer, divisional chief executive. Its managing director is Mr. David Thomas, 33, who joined Burton a year ago to set up the chain.

He will be assisted by a general manager, Mr. Andrew Leslie, 24, who has worked for the group for over five years in Britain and France.

Westminster Press acquires Bicester paper

THE BICESTER Advertiser Ltd. is selling the goodwill and copyright of the Bicester Advertiser and Mid-Oxon Chronicle to Oxford Mail and Times (Westminster Press), the proprietor of the Oxford Mail and Times and the Oxford Times, under whose ownership the Advertiser will retain its separate identity and continue to flourish as the vital mouthpiece of the area.

The Bicester Advertiser Ltd. says the decision to sell has been taken in order to provide the opportunity for an expansion of coverage of Bicester area news in the Bicester Advertiser through the greater resources of a large newspaper group and to free the Bicester Advertiser Ltd. to develop its other interests mainly as producers of a wide variety of commercial print.

The date for the transfer of ownership will be announced later.

NEW INCINERATOR TO DESTROY WASTE GAS

GIBBONS BROTHERS, of Brierley Hill, Staffs, part of the Gibbons Dudley group, is to design and build a waste liquor incinerator designed to destroy 2,500 gallons an hour of waste liquor from a cubic feet per hour of waste gas produced in a plant process. The liquor contains ammonia compounds and phenols. The gas is of low calorific value and heavily laden with tar.

The products of combustion which are free of solids and combustibles are exhausted to atmosphere by a 170 feet high, refractory lined, self supported chimney.

POOLE SHOPPING CENTRE PROGRESS

Work has started on an extension to the "Arndale" centre shopping scheme which has been undertaken by Town and Country Properties in Poole, Dorset. This final development phase will provide a supermarket—already let to Safeway Food Stores—along with six further shops, units and some 3,600 square feet of office accommodation. Completion is scheduled for mid-1972.

Extra £3m. for road works in Scotland

MR. GORDON Campbell, Secretary of State for Scotland, yesterday authorised the allocation of an additional £3m. for road works as a further measure towards redressing the imbalance in the construction industry in West Central Scotland.

This allocation is an extension of the £2m. programme of special works which the Secretary of State announced to the Scottish Grand Committee on July 13, 1971. It included grant-aided expenditure of £3m. by Scottish local authorities generally.

The additional £3m. allocation will apply to work carried out by local authorities in the current financial year and next. Like the original programme, it will cover expenditure on the maintenance of principal roads and on the improvement and improvement of non-principal roads.

Treasury bill rate rises

THE TREASURY bill rate rose 50.1036 per cent. further at yesterday's tender to £3.8288 per cent., bringing the rate since the end of July to 50.2446 per cent.

The Daily Telegraph syndicate lowered its agreed bid by 3p to 50.24, but still received a quota of 35 per cent., against 57 per cent. the previous week, helped by the fact that the amount of bills offered was increased by £50m. to £220m., under the influence, perhaps, of the recent inflow of foreign exchange.

Applications increased by £100m. to £337.5m. All bills offered were allotted, while next week £180m. bills will be on tender, against maturities of

INVESTMENT TRUST COMPANIES

The information in the columns below is supplied by the companies named, which are members of The Association of Investment Trust Companies. The figures, which are in new pence except where otherwise stated, are unaudited.

Total Assets less current liabilities	Company	Shares or Stock	Date of Valuation	Annual Dividend	Net Asset Value after deducting prior charges		25% of dollar premium
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	at nominal value	at market value	(8)
£million					(6)	(7)	(9)
Now pence except where £ stated (see note d)							
VALUATION MONTHLY							
11.6	Alliance Investment	Ordinary 25p	15/7/71	4.5	204	216	2
121.7	Alliance Trust	Ordinary Stock 25p	30/7/71	8.925	221	230	9
58.9	American Trust	Ord. & "B" Ord. 25p	30/7/71	7.75	285	300	15
18.7	Do. Do.	Conv. Deb. 1982/95	30/7/71	15.25	117	115.00	1
8.2	Capital & National Trust	Ord. & "B" Ord. 25p	30/7/71	9.125	112	116	1
70.7	Claverhouse Investment Trust	Ordinary 50p	30/7/71	3.0	82	82	1
34.0	Edinburgh Investment Trust	Deferred £1	30/7/71	6.5	217	231	14
122.6	First Scottish American Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	2.75	156	162	6
59.6	Foreign & Colonial Inv. Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	2.875	155	162	7
51.7	Do. Do.	Conv. Loan 1958/93	31/7/71	15.00	124.00	125.90	1.90
116.3	Great Northern Investment Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	3.625	114	120	6
61.0	Guardian Investment Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	2.0	88	94	6
59.6	Industrial & General Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	4.25	147	152	5
25.3	Investment Trust Corporation	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	5.0	107	113	6
17.5	Investors' Mortgage Security	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	2.3	76	81	5
31.5	London & Holyrood Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	5.25	203	213	10
2.5	London & Montrose Inv. Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	4.0	165	170	5
48.1	Metropolitan Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	4.875	190	196	6
36.0	Northern American Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	2.0	64	66	2
57.7	Scottish American Investment	Ordinary 50p	31/7/71	3.875	150	155	5
45.7	Scottish Northern Inv. Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	2.75	98	103	5
39.2	Scottish United Investors	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	3.5	124	134	10
45.3	Second Alliance Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	8.0	112	120	8
24.2	Securities Trust of Scotland	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	2.5	97	102	5
50.3	Trust Union	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	5.0	188	197	9
	United British Securities	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	177	193	201	8
		Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	2.25	101	104	3
		Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	5.625	204	207	3
83.3	Baillie, Gifford & Co.	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	3.0	124	127	3
71.8	Scottish Mortgage & Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	3.3	131	135	4
46.4	Edinburgh & Dundee Investment	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	4.5	163	172	9
12.7	Monks Investment Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	4.5	235	238	3
51.3	Winterbottom Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	4.5	235	238	3
11.7	Graham, Rintoul & Co. Glasgow	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	3.5	143	149	6
4.3	G.T. Management Ltd.	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	3.875	144	151	7
12.3	Berry Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	0.875	63	63	0
4.7	Do. Do.	Conv. Loan 1993	31/7/71	4.25	192.67	192.47	0.20
37.8	Northern Securities Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	3.25	116	123	7
18.0	Hambros Inv. Management Services	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	3.25	116	123	7
37.8	Hambros Investment Trust	"A" & "B" Ord. 25p	30/7/71	3.75	133	148	15
18.0	Richmond Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	1.06	104	107	3
7.6	Hellenic & General Trust	Ordinary Stock £1	30/7/71	17.0	702	819	117
3.6	City of Oxford Investment Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	1.875p	73	77	4
8.4	Rosedale Investment Trust	Capital Shares 25p	30/7/71	1.80	180	180	0
1.9	Michaelson & General Inv.	"A" & "B" Ord. 20p	27/7/71	1.3	40	40	0
56.7	Ivory & Sime	"A" & "B" Ord. 20p	27/7/71	1.3	40	40	0
30.6	British Assets Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	1.45	76	82	6
25.9	Second British Assets Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	5.063	236	242	6
1.5	Atlantic Assets Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	0.625	77	80	3
2.8	Leonard Joseph & Sons Ltd.	Income 25p	31/7/71	3.125	40	40	0
33.8	Anglo-Welsh Investment Trust	Capital 25p	31/7/71	67	86	87	1
53.5	Do. Do.	Ordinary 50p	7/6/71	2.375	82	87	5
3.8	Murray Johnstone & Co.	Ordinary 25p	7/6/71	2.375	82	87	5
57.6	Calderdale Trust	Ord. & "B" Ord. 25p	30/7/71	1.6	78	82	4
18.7	Glennmurray Investment Trust	Ord. & "B" Ord. 25p	30/7/71	1.875	77	81	4
17.0	Scottish Western Investment	Ord. & "B" Ord. 25p	30/7/71	1.3625	60	60	0
21.9	Second Great Northern Inv. Trust	Ord. & "B" Ord. 25p	30/7/71	2.1875	95	100	5
37.8	Schwartz Waggs Group	Ord. & "B" Ord. 25p	30/7/71	1.9	87	90	3
10.6	Asdown Investment	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	3.5	139	148	9
64.5	Do. Do.	Conv. Loan 1988/93	31/7/71	4.75	197.50	198.00	0.50
27.2	Broadstone Investment	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	3.3	136	148	12
10.3	Do. Do.	Conv. Loan 1988/93	31/7/71	5.50	290.60	297.40	6.80
37.3	Continental & Industrial Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	4.12	173	189	16
21.8	Trans-Oceanic Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	3.75	158	167	9
10.6	Do. Do.	Conv. Loan 1988/93	31/7/71	4.40	197.30	198.70	1.40
64.5	Westpool Investment	Shares 25p	31/7/71	2.75	106	111	5
37.4	Touche, Remnant & Co.	Conv. Loan 1989/94	31/7/71	5.00	193.90	196.40	2.50
39.6	Asia Electric & General Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	3.5	162	170	8
39.6	Bankers Investment Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	3.75	130	138	8
66.9	CLRP Investment Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	1.875	130	137	7
16.6	Cedar Investment Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	3.375	139	144	5
13.0	City of London Brewery	Deferred 25p	30/7/71	1.75	124	131	7
6.9	Continental Union Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	2.0	105	111	6
41.9	International Investment Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	3.625	155	162	7
28.6	Sphere Investment Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	2.5	111	114	3
39.6	Standard Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	4.25	152	161	9
VALUATION THREE-MONTHLY							
66.9	Anglo American Securities	Ordinary 25p	15/7/71	2.375	101	107	6
16.6	Do. Do.	Conv. Loan 1988	15/7/71	4.00	101.00	107.50	6.50
12.8	Charterhouse Investment Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	3.75	123	133	10
9.1	Electron Trust	Ord. & "B" Ord. 25p	30/7/71	2.375	103	104	1
6.0	Ever Ready Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	5.25	171	177	6
14.5	Grange Trust	Ordinary Stock 25p	31/5/71	3.75	132	139	7
41.9	London Scottish American	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	8.125	281	293	12
5.0	Oil & Associated Inv. Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/6/71	2.0	55	58	3
22.1	Pentland Investment Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/6/71	56.25	112.75	116.00	3.25
65.9	Scottish Eastern Inv. Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/6/71	3.0	110	116	6
9.7	Second London Scot. Am. Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	3.25	131	137	6
6.9	Technique Investments	Ordinary 25p	30/7/71	4.75	161	172	11
42.9	United States Debenture Cpn.	"A" & "B" Ord. 25p	30/7/71	1.825	88	89	1
	Do. Do.	Conv. Loan 1974/93	30/7/71	2.625	91	94	3
	City Financial Administration Ltd.	Conv. Loan 1974/93	30/7/71	55.00	59.60	103.25	43.65
2.8	Acorn Securities	Capital 1p	9/8/71	55	55	55	0
10.1	General Funds Investment	Ordinary 25p	2/8/71	3.75	131	136	5
7.7	Do. Do.	Conv. Ord. 10p	2/8/71	94	98	104	6
17.0	"Investing in Success" Equities	Ordinary 25p	9/8/71	1.75	105	110	5
13.7	General Investors Group	Ordinary 25p	9/8/71	1.75	105	110	5
53.6	Cardinal Investment Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/6/71	5.125	167	177	10
48.6	City & Gracechurch Inv. Trust	Deferred 25p	30/6/71	4.75	160	171	11
28.4	John Goret & Co. Ltd.	Ord. & Conv. Ord. 25p	30/6/71	7	7	7	0
96.9	Bordest & Stn. Stockholders Trust	Ordinary 50p	30/6/71	5.5	279	288	9
17.0	General Stockholders Inv. Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	4.125	335	374	39
4.4	Lake View Inv. Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/6/71	3.825	177	185	8
14.3	Do. Do.	Conv. Loan 1973/98	30/6/71	1.8	135	141	6
7.8	London & Aberdeen Inv. Trust	Prefd. & Deferred 5p	30/6/71	£4.00	£118.00	£123.40	£5.40
16.3	Stockholders Inv. Trust	Ordinary 50p	31/7/71	6.5	378	399	21
95.3	Western Stockholders Inv. Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/6/71	0.875	47	49	2
27.0	Henderson Administration Ltd.	Ordinary 25p	30/6/71	1.75	89	96	7
7.1	Witan Investment	Ordinary 25p	31/5/71	1.25	93	98	5
4.4	Electric & General Investment	Ordinary 25p	30/6/71	1.125	100	108	8
4.1	Greenfriar Investment	Ordinary 25p	30/6/71	1.125	100	108	8
3.6	Mendip Investment	Ordinary 25p	31/5/71	1.2	83	88	5
7.8	Lowland Investment	Ordinary 25p	30/6/71	1.8125	45	45	0
14.3	Hill Samuel & Co. Ltd.	Ordinary 25p	31/5/71	2.44	84	90	6
7.6	Do. Do.	Conv. Loan 1989/94	31/5/71	54.25	59.70	100.70	41.00
16.3	General & Commercial Inv. Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/5/71	3.5	121	130	9
95.3	General Consolidated Inv. Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/6/71	2.25	75	78	3
30.3	Do. Do.	Conv. Loan 1939/94	30/6/71	5.50	58.60	100.50	41.90
9.0	Phillip Hill Investment Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/5/71	5.825	177	182	5
3.0	Do. Do.	Conv. Loan 1989/94	31/5/71	£4.50	£101.30	£104.20	£2.90
27.0	Moorgate Investment Co.	Ordinary 25p	31/5/71	2.0	55	57	2
2.4	Nineteen Twenty-Eight Inv. Trust	Ordinary 25p	31/5/71	5.125	189	198	9
28.1	Kleinwort Benson Ltd.	Ordinary 25p	31/7/71	1.25	80	87	7
	Cumulus Inv. Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/6/71	2.875	95	99	4
	English & New York Trust	Ordinary 25p	30/6/71	2.875	95	99	4

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SERVICE: NOTES

Income Services:
 figures based on prospectus or a
 special estimates for 1977-79. * P
 ed on prospectus or other offi
 estimates for 1977-79. * Assumed
 yield after pending scrib and/or
 in Executive refund 0.75. C. G.
 s Tax. * Figures based on prose
 other official estimates for 197
 figures based on prospectus or a
 special estimates for 1970-71. *
 on prospectus or other official
 paid up. * Figures based on
 on prospectus or other official
 1970-71. * Figures based on
 figures assumed. * No alignment
 tation Tax payable. * Dividend 70

Price at time of suspension.
 indicated dividend after pending
 price at time of suspension.
 indicated dividend or forecast.
 indicated dividend.
 where some dividend, since
 convertible loan stock time
 existence.

Merger bid or reorganization.

same interim; reduced final
 reduced earnings indicated.
 always allows for conversion of
 at now ranking for dividends
 as only for restricted dividends
 assumes all equity capital rep
 dividends
 never does not allow for share
 may also rank for dividend as a
 No p/e ratio usually over
 constituting a final dividend decision
 provincial quotients
 to put value.
 the share value
 to issue; as ex rights; dividend
 capital; x ex rights; dividend
 ex capital distribution; x ex

F.T.—ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of The Financial Times, The Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries in Edinburgh

EQUITY GROUPS		Friday, August 20, 1971					Thurs. Aug. 19	Wed. Aug. 18	Tuesday Aug. 17	Mon. Aug. 16	Year ago (approx.)	Highs and Lows Index			
GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS		Index No.	Day's Change %	With 50% Con- pensation Tax	Div. yield %	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.	Index No.		1971		Since completion	
Figures in parentheses after sectional names show number of stocks.				Est. Price Ratio								High	Low	High	Low
CAPITAL GOODS GROUP (184)															
Aircraft and Components (3)	154.44	-0.5	6.10	16.39	3.05	153.74	153.71	153.85	156.09	118.47		158.62	104.05	151.80	88.88
Building Materials (29)	110.81	+2.2	7.39	13.53	5.03	108.42	108.11	109.92	113.88	98.26		116.32	66.40	290.18	56.40
Contracting and Construction (19)	165.39	+0.1	5.03	19.90	3.43	155.29	155.20	155.35	165.41	98.49		157.94	98.50	167.98	68.01
Electr. (ex. Electr. Rad. & TV) (13)	231.57	—	5.90	16.94	2.60	231.66	232.61	233.14	234.70	191.06		229.71	125.82	258.62	126.62
Engineering (80)	278.45	+1.7	5.08	19.77	2.96	273.71	271.80	270.30	274.70	199.12		285.44	174.32	335.11	84.71
Machine Tools (15)	143.43	+0.2	6.68	14.99	4.35	143.18	143.31	143.55	144.39	115.12		149.30	102.56	159.00	85.00
Miscellaneous (25)	65.73	+0.5	7.34	13.62	6.18	65.43	65.77	65.82	66.92	65.82		68.23	43.58	102.70	45.52
	126.59	-0.3	8.09	12.36	4.55	127.01	127.84	128.28	129.32	114.59		134.65	94.19	144.27	69.01
CONSUMER GOODS (DURABLE) GROUP (56)															
Electronics, Radio and TV (14)	168.42	+0.1	5.25	19.06	3.09	168.29	168.24	168.46	170.49	129.06		172.85	117.35	197.87	79.96
Household Goods (15)	179.73	—	5.63	17.75	2.44	179.70	179.03	178.35	180.13	144.42		180.35	127.51	199.66	71.10
Motors and Distributors (27)	184.77	—	6.34	15.78	3.58	184.81	184.63	186.49	188.71	122.82		189.00	115.92	199.00	81.66
	114.03	+0.3	4.45	22.47	3.74	113.80	114.28	114.56	116.90	85.47		120.53	78.91	170.59	75.92
CONSUMER GOODS (NON-DURABLE) GROUP (175)															
Breweries (21)	160.68	+0.7	5.60	17.87	3.79	159.60	159.52	160.58	161.25	116.38		164.68	118.17	164.68	83.71
Wines and Spirits (7)	184.82	+0.5	5.41	18.50	3.44	183.70	184.32	185.19	186.03	119.47		184.97	123.80	194.87	80.59
Entertainment and Catering (15)	170.05	-2.1	6.13	16.30	4.12	166.55	166.03	167.65	169.04	143.85		167.11	101.11	197.00	71.10
Food Manufacturing (34)	199.01	+0.1	7.19	13.91	3.90	198.85	198.96	199.60	203.49	168.52		214.88	177.99	218.68	102.12
Food Retailing (17)	141.26	+0.5	5.72	17.48	3.85	140.60	141.26	142.98	144.01	104.71		144.01	90.74	171.54	86.98
Newspapers and Publishing (15)	140.39	-0.3	5.38	18.58	3.60	140.04	140.33	141.06	142.50	97.56		142.81	100.25	163.68	94.62
Packaging and Paper (16)	141.44	-0.2	6.07	16.47	5.03	141.73	140.69	141.12	141.27	106.59		142.35	102.56	178.88	101.66
Stores (30)	116.81	+0.9	6.62	15.11	4.44	115.75	115.55	115.49	115.75	101.52		120.10	88.81	154.53	87.91
Textiles (21)	163.62	+0.7	4.44	22.53	3.03	162.62	162.18	162.84	162.94	100.55		160.64	104.48	160.64	72.74
Tobacco (3)	173.32	+1.4	6.69	17.58	5.21	170.86	168.71	170.35	171.88	151.83		172.72	127.81	197.72	81.66
	223.99	+0.6	9.10	10.99	5.68	232.49	232.53	233.56	236.04	198.17		254.87	157.83	179.68	100.72
Toys and Games (6)	45.43	+0.9	0.88	113.07	3.29	45.03	49.80	49.33	50.34	53.89		69.03	45.05	135.72	46.03
OTHER GROUPS															
Chemicals (19)	189.89	+1.0	5.31	18.85	3.47	185.03	186.00	187.98	189.66	137.76		193.39	138.18	201.92	83.29
Office Equipment (10)	194.19	-0.4	3.60	27.77	1.54	193.01	198.36	203.80	204.08	130.61		212.08	153.58	212.08	109.12
Shipping (10)	313.68	-0.3	7.51	13.31	6.23	314.86	316.28	315.59	316.67	326.35		325.75	269.76	355.44	90.80
Miscellaneous (unclassified) (44)	181.43	+0.5	5.92	15.90	3.80	180.44	179.84	180.35	180.77	128.90		190.35	158.59	180.35	75.52
INDUSTRIAL GROUP (498 SHARES)															
Oil (2)	337.08	-1.0	6.01	16.66	3.72	340.57	353.30	340.79	354.48	374.79		563.50	260.74	431.66	87.23
500 SHARE INDEX															
	181.16	+0.3	5.68	17.61	3.65	180.60	179.83	181.33	183.59	136.05		187.27	132.46	193.73	84.86
FINANCIAL GROUP (121)															
Banks (6)	178.81	+0.7	—	2.76	171.67	171.36	171.94	172.49	109.50	117.45		119.72	119.72	119.72	89.85
Discount Houses (6)	187.89	+1.7	7.54	13.62	2.70	184.81	183.79	182.89	183.83	101.74		183.94	102.15	182.71	89.85
Hire Purchase (6)	177.84	+1.4	—	4.84	175.32	175.22	174.26	174.07	119.13	117.84		150.72	177.84	177.84	87.65
Insurance (Life) (9)	266.44	+2.8	4.64	21.54	284.05	260.00	260.02	258.02	166.63	269.44		269.44	269.44	269.44	80.02
Insurance (Composite) (9)	150.94	-0.4	—	2.87	151.47	158.51	158.71	153.57	115.82	150.94		150.94	150.94	150.94	80.02
Insurance (Brokers) (11)	132.66	+0.8	—	3.22	131.61	130.25	129.86	151.86	80.60	134.50		150.80	134.50	134.50	80.02
Investment Trusts (20)	166.08	-0.2	5.34	18.75	2.62	166.36	165.31	166.65	178.86	101.89		179.08	113.27	179.08	85.59
Merchant Banks, Issuing Houses (14)	168.25	—	2.92	34.22	2.78	169.10	156.67	160.56	195.51	143.20		168.34	102.16	168.34	85.59
Property (31)	230.39	+0.5	2.64	37.91	2.18	219.31	219.41	221.30	221.16	138.54		221.30	139.37	221.30	56.01
Miscellaneous (9)	168.49	+0.4	6.05	16.82	4.41	167.78	168.81	170.75	171.41	—		174.01	160.73	171.41	130.06
ALL-SHARE INDEX (621 SHARES)															
	178.98	+0.4	—	5.44	178.28	177.84	178.79	180.58	129.51	183.96		189.47	125.47	185.06	84.72
COMMODITY SHARE GROUPS (Not included in the 500 or All-Share indices)															
Rubbers (10)	217.84	-0.5	10.50	9.52	6.12	218.86	218.81	218.84	223.61	139.65		234.12	163.62	234.12	84.86
Teas (10)	90.57	+0.4	16.41	6.09	8.87	90.18	90.18	89.85	89.74	73.78		91.08	78.71	114.64	59.96
Coppers (4)	327.69	-0.5	64.17	1.85	15.08	329.23	328.44	327.93	329.18	272.98		350.50	255.80	349.84	141.11
Mining Finance (11)	94.36	-1.4	6.01	16.65	3.62	95.85	96.38	99.47	102.81	117.57		106.79	94.26	175.90	94.26
Tins (8)	72.74	-0.2	10.81	9.16	8.63	72.86	72.86	72.74	72.44	59.18		73.71	62.59	116.63	116.63
FIXED INTEREST															
		Friday, August 20		Thurs. Aug. 19	Wed. Aug. 18	Tuesday Aug. 17	Monday Aug. 16	Friday Aug. 15	Thurs. Aug. 14	Year ago (approx.)	1971		Since Completion		
		Index No.	Yield %								High	Low	High	Low	
Consols 2½ yield	—	9.11	8.15	9.15	9.15	9.19	9.18	9.26	—	—	—	—	—	—	
20-yr. Govt. Stocks (6)	79.70	18.16	79.61	79.63	79.65	79.67	79.84	79.83	73.03	80.58	70.60	115.42	68.43	108.09	
20-yr. Red. Debentures & Loans (15)	72.54	10.18	72.48	72.45	72.51	72.54	72.84	72.84	73.03	75.54	68.42	113.45	65.69	108.09	
Investment Trusts Prefs. (15)	70.01	10.68	70.01	70.01	70.01	69.85	68.85	68.85	71.67	70.01	66.23	114.41	65.23	108.09	
Commercial and Indust. Prefs. (20)	74.17	10.41	74.14	74.12	74.14	74.15	74.25	74.09	75.52	74.43	69.02	114.41	68.02	108.09	

F.T.-Actuaries indices are calculated by Extel-Communications Limited (a member of the Exchange Telegraph Group) on an IBM 360 computer.

A current list of constituents of the F.T.-Actuaries Share Indices can be obtained from the Publisher, the Financial Times, Bracken House, Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY, price 13p. By post inland 16p. Commonwealth 16p. Foreign 19p.

CONSTITUENT CHANGES: Myers (J.) (Stores) has been replaced by Myers (J.) (Furnishings) and Singes and Friedlander (Merchant Banks) has been replaced by Matthews Wrightson (Insurance Brokers). Lines Bros. has been replaced by M.Y. Dart (Toys and Games).

[illegible]

Volcan Minerals 279.7
 West Creek 212 8 9 9: 14 71
 Xerox Corp. 159

AUGUST 18

American S.A. Invest. \$200
 Aldinger Trust 250
 Amoco 198 531.59594
 Aust. Kaudes Cement 43 1/2
 Aust. Lignite 100
 British Continental Oil 8
 70
 Central Oil Rio 282
 Comco June 1070
 71 1110
 Cuyler Corp. 50252
 Cleveland Tin 30
 71 1110
 Columbus Fund 180
 Dominion Tar 625
 Filinvest Pharm. 500.894
 71 1110
 Florigene Sp. 1988 50101 1/2
 Gulf Oil Canada 51290
 Greatex Sp. 660
 71 1110
 Harbourside Oil 11
 71 1110
 Haver Corp. 51 1/2
 71 1110
 I.O.S. Management 30
 71 1110
 International 58
 Jefferson Oil 223 1/2
 71 1110
 Keweenaw Alstair 32
 71 1110
 Kinn Brewery 500.60
 71 1110
 Lenz Leasing 4.49 50
 Leopold Minerals 9
 71 1110
 Perotina 31
 Mount Pleasant 250
 71 1110
 Nacorda Australasia (A.R.) 1372
 71 1110
 Nickelsteel 58
 71 1110
 Oceania Mines 512
 71 1110
 Neffco 1104
 71 1110
 North Star 40
 71 1110
 Pacific Seaboard Fund 510
 71 1110
 Penn. Coal Co. Inc. 211 1/2
 71 1110
 Sui Oil 227 1/2
 71 1110
 Sunchems Wine 280
 71 1110
 Target Petroleum 31
 71 1110
 Tasmalco 220
 71 1110
 Western Titanium 320
 71 1110
 Wallace Murray 520 1170P. 6152

AUGUST 17

A.B.A. Services 2718
 Apollo Intl. 5 4
 71 1110
 Asst. Continental Resources 91
 Aust. Coalfield Mines 15
 71 1110
 Austral. Petrol. 503
 Athliss Power Prod. 63.45
 71 1110
 Burlington Northern 225
 71 1110
 Canadian Pacific 2400
 71 1110
 Colonial Sugar 507.75
 71 1110
 Corp. 221
 71 1110
 Combines Trust of Amer. 5152
 71 1110
 Eastern Coast
 71 1110
 Esso Australia 64pc 1988 50994
 71 1110
 Gold and Copper 31
 71 1110
 Gold and Mineral Ex. 71
 71 1110
 Grace Bros. 890
 71 1110
 Hong Kong Dev. 62
 71 1110
 Island Natural Gas 612
 71 1110
 Lipton Macquarie 121
 71 1110
 Macquarie
 71 1110
 Mount Lyell 62 Do. partly paid 534
 71 1110
 McIntyre Petroleum Mines 5421
 71 1110
 Mineral Resources 615
 71 1110
 North Minerals 19
 71 1110
 Offshore Oil 11
 71 1110
 Rand Mines 121
 71 1110
 Q.U.T. Inds. 30
 71 1110
 Reef Oil 71
 71 1110
 Reliance 6-2P. 690
 71 1110
 Rogers Oil 890
 71 1110
 Ranger Oil 740
 71 1110
 Shell Oil 51
 71 1110
 S.A. Forded Int. 2202
 71 1110
 Standard New Jersey 636
 71 1110
 Thames Int. 11
 71 1110
 Travelodge 34

Utd. Uranium 146. Do. (20 cents) 40
 Uzin Mining 175
 71 1110
 West Aust. Wreath Oref. 1907. Do. A 1905
 71 1110
 West Coast Transmission 512 1/2 1/2

AUGUST 16

Australia Sunc 1980 150 7950
 Australia Sp. 1988 53104 1/2
 Beach Petroleum 210
 71 1110
 Conwell Ex. 1980 150 7950
 71 1110
 Chryso Marine Petroleum 502.72 1/2
 71 1110
 Colliery 5152.788 1/2
 71 1110
 Denver Rubber 5152.788 1/2
 71 1110
 El Paso Natural Gas 812
 71 1110
 El Paso Brewery 747
 71 1110
 Greenvalley Mines 11
 71 1110
 Harport Oil 21
 71 1110
 1980 50300
 71 1110
 Imperial Oil 512 1/2
 71 1110
 J.L. Lams. 81 66
 71 1110
 Jones Mng. 160
 71 1110
 Jennings L.A. V.73 345
 71 1110
 Kansas City Power Light 5154
 71 1110
 4
 71 1110
 Leyland Mining 280
 71 1110
 Long Island Lighting 1110
 71 1110
 Mafco (Philipp) 1988 5350
 71 1110
 Macquarie Petroleum 5152
 71 1110
 Mullins Mines 2310
 71 1110
 Nacorda Petroleum 35
 71 1110
 Nacorda Group 5152 500 10
 71 1110
 Southern Nat. 5300
 71 1110
 Sun Valley 5152 500 10
 71 1110
 Tokyo Trust 5015 1/2 725
 71 1110
 150 per cent of the Stock Exchange
 (count)

CORAL INDEX
 Close 4091.4141

ERRATA

Adgepco On 107: should have been 103 1/2 (181)
 Richards Wallington 73pc. 12 should have been 82 (181)
 G.E.C. Elliott Automation 50pc. should have been 52 (181)
 Trust Houses Free 725pc. 700 should have been 710 (181)
 S.M.I. Corp. should not have been marked 157 (181)
 Flamingo Ord. 275 should have been 297.5 (181)
 Brookes Bond Liebig 51pc. 71 should have been to the 51pc. (1781)
 Gulf Petroleum 62pc. 700 should have been to the 51pc. (1781)
 Grand Met. 1070 750pc. 700 should have been 70 (181)
 Nat. Invests. 18 should have been 182 (181)
 Lincoln County Gas 91 1/2 should have been to Carm. of London 61pc (181)
 Linc. Brs. 512 1/2 etc should have been 315 etc (181)

RISES AND FALLS
YESTERDAY

	Up	Down	Same
British Funds	34	—	12
Corn, Dom. and Foreign	21	7	105
Industrial	282	268	171
Financial & Prop.	107	88	244
Oils	10	6	14
Plantations	5	9	73
Mines	8	63	106
Recent Issues	15	9	83
Totals	493	493	1,632

NEW 'HIGHS' AND 'LOWS' FOR 1971

The following securities (number in parentheses), among those quoted in London Closing Prices yesterday attained new "highs" and "lows" for 1971:—

[illegible]

NEW "LOWS" (33)

AMERICANS (2)	
Continental Oil	Texaco
BANKS (3)	
Aust. & N.Z. Bk. of N.S. Wales	Minster Assocs
STORES (1)	
Lovels Retailers	
INDUSTRIALS (5)	
Ada (Hallifax)	Byrdand
Asco. Leasing	Mettor
Burnholms & Forster	
SHIPPING (1)	
Reardon Smith	
TEAS (1)	
Longbourne	
MINES (20)	
Bufiles	M.L.M. Holdings
Libanon	New Broken Hill
West. Vill	New Broken Hill
N.S. Gerdul	Naturel
Pres. Brand	Nihira, Nalung
Unnest, Gold Fields	Scamander
Widdie Mills	Western Mining
Unim Corp.	S. Ryan
Great Boulder	Charterhall
Hampton Aerias	Northgate Eas.

MONEY + EXCHANGES

Large assistance required

Aug. 20	1st night certificate of deposit	Inter-bank	Local authorities deposits*	Local authorities negotiable bonds	Finance House deposits	Inter-company notes	Finance House deposits	Finance House notes	Finance House bills	Finance House bonds
Overnight.....	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
1-day notice.....	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4	5 3/4
7-days or 10-days notice.....	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8
14-day notice.....	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8
Three-month.....	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8
Six-month.....	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8
Nine-month.....	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8
One-year.....	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8	5 7/8

* Local authorities seven-days' notice, others seven-days' fixed. * Longer-term mortgage rates: three-years 7 1/2-7 3/4 per cent, four-years 7 1/2-7 3/4 per cent, and five-years 7 1/2-7 3/4 per cent. * Rates given are for buying. Selling rates for Treasury bills 5 1/2 per cent, or 5 3/4 per cent, for two-months and 5 1/2 per cent, for three-months; selling rates for bank bills and for trade bills Finance House Base Rate established by the Finance Houses Association 6 1/2 per cent, from August 2.

EXCHANGES AND BULLION

The London foreign exchange market was again a busy one, with the francs being again dealings in centres abroad. The pound was quoted at \$2.46-47. In the early changes in New York, the 1-month pound at 15-25 cents premium, the 2-month at par—10 months at a premium at discount to par, and the 6-month at 30-30 discount, an obituary a late morning New York time at \$2.46-47.00.

During dealings in Europe, leading Continental currencies were quoted in the following round figures: Dutch guilders at Frs. 3.38-39, German marks at Frs. Bfrs.49-50, German marks DM13.38-42, Italian lire Lr.800-613, Swedish kronor Kr.46-47, and Swiss francs Sw.Frs.3.96-1.01.

Closing New York rates showed a marginal gain for the pound and a slight loss for the franc, but a gain for the Belgian franc against the dollar and the pound, but against leading Continental currencies in general. The dollar was quoted at 100 cents, the franc at Frs.48-47, the dollar to the franc at Frs.48-47, the Dutch guilder at Fl.348-47, the Swiss franc at Frs.49-50, the German mark at DM14.27 (DM14.11), and the Swiss franc at Frs.49-50 (Frs.49.06).

The pound improved to \$2.47 (from \$2.4650). Canadian dollars also hardened a shade, to \$C1.01-1 (8C1.01-1).

European rates in London generally had a softer tendency, with the week-end rate easing from 81 per cent in the earlier part of the week to about 5 per cent, by the close.

Gold was fixed at \$43.30 an ounce in London both in the morning and in the afternoon. Conditions were fairly quiet, the closing quotation was \$432.00-\$434.00, for a net loss of 5 cents. The gold price in London fell slightly to \$10.85-10.90, from \$10.80-11.00, but new eased 10 cents to \$13.00-13.20. Double

day, in Paris, the 121-kilogramme gold bar was fixed Frs.10, and the 121-kilogramme Frs.10,000 (\$42.02), and rose to Frs.7,773 (\$42.28) at the afternoon fixing.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES —AS AUGUST 13

Aug. 13	Prev. day's	Day's	Close
1913	Rate	Spread	
New York:			
London	2.46 1/2-2	2.41 1/2-2	2.41 1/2-2
Montreal	5 1/4	2 1/4-2 1/2	2 1/4-2 1/2
San Francisco	10 1/2-11	10 1/2-11	10 1/2-11
Chicago	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Brussels	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Frankfurt	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Paris	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Amsterdam	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Stockholm	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Copenhagen	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Helsinki	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Oslo	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Stockholm	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Copenhagen	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Helsinki	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Oslo	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Stockholm	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Copenhagen	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Helsinki	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Oslo	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Stockholm	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Copenhagen	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Helsinki	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Oslo	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Stockholm	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Copenhagen	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Helsinki	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Oslo	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Stockholm	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Copenhagen	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Helsinki	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Oslo	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Stockholm	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Copenhagen	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Helsinki	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Oslo	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Stockholm	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Copenhagen	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Helsinki	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Oslo	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Stockholm	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Copenhagen	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Helsinki	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Oslo	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Stockholm	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Copenhagen	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Helsinki	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Oslo	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Stockholm	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Copenhagen	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Helsinki	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Oslo	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Stockholm	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Copenhagen	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12
Helsinki	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12	11 1/2-12

EXCHANGE CROSS-RATES						OTHER MARKET RATES	
Aug. 20	London	New York	Paris	Hankow	London	Shanghai	
Franklin		3.41-42	62.50-50		6.76-77		
N. York	89.14-13		11.12-15	2.03-06	2.46-47 9/16	23.72-16	
Brussels	14.28-84	43.05-26	8.69-9.0				
London					14.05-19	12.25-42	
Amsterdam	16.50-17.45	3.99-4.01					

U.S. \$ on Mexican L.005-1.011. Canadian \$ on New York 0.955-0.962. Milan on New York —. Milan on London —.

* Note rates quoted by specialist dealers. Other rates may be quoted elsewhere.
 15¢ per 100 Ru. * Fours receive a 45¢ per cent. basis on foreign currency surrendered to banks in Pakistan. * Rate

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES							for all denominated in U.S. dollars * Hong Kong dollar in the pound U.S. Canada 91.82-93.85	
Aug. 20	Sterling	U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar	Dutch guilder	West German mark	Swiss franc	FORWARD RATES One month Three months	
Short-term	—	—	—	5-5 1/2	4 1/4	—	New York 1 1/2-1 3/4	1 1/2-1 3/4
1-day notice	—	—	—	5-5 1/2	4 1/4	—	Montreal 1 1/2-1 3/4	1 1/2-1 3/4
3-months	8-10	—	—	5-5 1/2	4 1/4	—	America 1 1/2-1 3/4	1 1/2-1 3/4
Three-months	8-9	—	—	5-5 1/2	4 1/4	—	London 1 1/2-1 3/4	1 1/2-1 3/4
Six-months	9-10	—	—	5-5 1/2	4 1/4	—	Amsterdam 1 1/2-1 3/4	1 1/2-1 3/4
One-year	7 1/2-9 1/2	—	—	5-5 1/2	4 1/4	—	Frankfurt 1 1/2-1 3/4	1 1/2-1 3/4
				5-5 1/2	4 1/4	—	Paris 1 1/2-1 3/4	1 1/2-1 3/4
				5-5 1/2	4 1/4	—	Milan 1 1/2-1 3/4	1 1/2-1 3/4
				5-5 1/2	4 1/4	—	Delft 1 1/2-1 3/4	1 1/2-1 3/4
				5-5 1/2	4 1/4	—	Stockholm 1 1/2-1 3/4	1 1/2-1 3/4
				5-5 1/2	4 1/4	—	Vienna 1 1/2-1 3/4	1 1/2-1 3/4
				5-5 1/2	4 1/4	—	Zurich 1 1/2-1 3/4	1 1/2-1 3/4

The following rates were quoted for London dollar certificates of deposit: one-month 8 1/2-9 per cent, three-months 8 1/2-9 per cent, six-months 8 1/2-9 per cent, one-year 8 1/2-9 per cent.
 * All rates highly nominal.
 Short-term rates are call for Sterling, U.S. dollars and Canadian dollars, and two-day's notice for Guilders, Marks and Swiss francs.

Option Report and three-month

[illegible]

“Call” rates

ments, British Petroleum, Lewtson Developments, Avana Group, Flsons, Smith and Nephew, James North, Shell Transport, David Brown Pref., Leeds Assets, Elsbury, Barclay Securities, Woolworth and Glaxo.

"Tits" were taken out in Burma Oil and BSA, while double options were completed in Associated Newspapers, Cannon St. Investments, Shell Transport and Armour Trust.

as otherwise indicated

Seed Int.	12	Mines	
London Walker	23	Anglo Amer	25
Wooler	26	Shroton Edm	28
Thorn A	28	Barracord Fin	28
Unilever	28	Hutchins Fin	30
Lloyds Drapery	15	Ums. Gold	30
Woolworth	28	The Beers Deal	32
		Credit Corp	32
		Sweet Bonding	32
		Hampson Assoc	32
		Rampton Prop	32
Property	19	Kilncl	32
Cap. Countries	19	Lonbro	32
Land Sec	20	Gordon & Co	32
St. John's	20	Metals Expor	36
Can. (G. Brn)	20	Norwesterl	36
Towns & City	20	Genl Invest	36
Towns & Comm.	14	Pratt Steels	36
		Wm. T. Zinc	36
		Wellman	36
Pills	36	Weston	36
Electric Paragon	36	Western Mfg	36
East Ang	36	Genial Coppr	36
Oil Search	36		
Shell	36		
	25		

advisory yesterday.

Stocks of Ireland gained another 5p to 250 on the Irish Exchange, where P. J. Carlin rose 4p to 66p and Merchants Warehousing added 5p at 160p. Cement Roadstone lost 4p to 61p and Silvermines shed 1p to 20p.

On the Midlands and Western SE, URM at 136p and DRG at 137p each rose 1p, but F. J. Reeves was down 1p.

Coated Metals jumped 10p to 292½p, while AE Electronics 49½p. Graig Shipping 282p and David S. Smith 46p each put on 2p. But Stothert and Pitt lost 3p to 57½p. Aberthaw Cement 123½p and United Transport 108½p were each 1½p easier, while Anglo-Indians 121½p and Reardon Smith 32p were each 1p lower.

Bryant improved 2½p to 37½p as did Page Johnson "A" to 123p, but Sealed Motors fell 6½p to 141½p.

Of the Northern Exchange, Evans of Leeds put on 4½p to 104½p, A. and S. Henry added another 2p at 72½p on the bid from UDS, but Gratian Warehouses eased another 2p to 256p. George Bassett further improved 1p to 257p.

Kenning, Motors lost 3p to 85p and Adams and Gibbon shed 1sp more to 34½p. Wilson Peck made no change, but his appearances and shares were marked down to £11.50. Northern Development, however, further declined 6½p to 234p in advance of the meeting. Barrow Heburn and Gale were up 1p to 125½p, but Yorkshire Chemicals 125½p were down 1p.

Vaux and Associated Brokers shed 2½p to 330½p but, C. G. S. B. Holdings were 1½p up at 34½p.

Ash Spinning dropped 6p to 28p, due to the closure of one of its mills, while Swan Lane Spinning 28p and Anglo Paper 28p each eased 1p to 27p, marked at 39p, as did Bibby and Baron 40p, Associated Dairies 260½p, Fairbairns Lawson 15½p, Hargreaves Group 27p, Leeds Assets 127p and Readicut 45½p.

J. L. Gardner gained 3p to 67p but L. Gardner fell 1p to 66p. On the Scottish S.E., Babcock and Wilcox rose 7p to 262p, Howden Group gained 3½p to 7½p, while Distillers 15½p and Nastra 11½p both improved 1½p. Nat. Commercial Bank moved up 2p to 15½p and John Brown added 1½p at 149p. Scotch Breweries eased 1p to 434p.

Price in source and derivations of The values otherwise stated

RELFAST				
Graig Ship	212	+ 2	Reaton Vauld	5
Halstmo 201	129	- 1	Hutemere Brev	115½

ACTIVE

YESTERDAY—
Prices in pence except where stated

Stock	Denomina- tion	No. of marks
Court Line	25p	17
Imp. Chem. Inds.	£1	17
Shell Transport	25p	15
CAST	25p	13
Brit. Petroleum	£1	12
Cons. Gold Fields	25p	12
Trust Hss. Forte	25p	12
Coatvauda	25p	11
De Beers Deid.	R0.05	11
GEC	25p	11
Herbert (A.)	£1	11
Rio Tinto-Zinc	25p	11
Burmah Oil	£1	10
Drakes	20p	10
International Sts.	25p	10

The above list of active stocks recorded yesterday in the Official reproduced to-day in Stock Exchange

ON THE WEEK—

Stock	Denomina- tion	No. marks
Imp. Chem. Inds.	£1	105
Shell Transport...	25p	95
Burmah	£1	81
Unilever	25p	80
Brit. Petroleum	£1	74
Cons. Gold Fields	25p	73
Covril	£1	64
Rank Organ. "A"	25p	64
Star (G.B.)	50p	63
Barclays Bank	£1	57
Courtaulds	25p	57
Brit.-Am. Tobacco	25p	56
Beecham	25p	55
Midland Bank	£1	54
Reed International	£1	54

[illegible]

Closing		Change	1971	1971				
price	on day		high	low				
335	+ 6	180	119					
135	+ 3	330	230					
346	+ 3	426	327					
578	- 2	678	87					
167	+ 7	238	80					
125	- 10	265	212					
212	+ 4	511	116					
131	+ 5	136	107					
198	-	258	108					
536	+ 1	160	90					
138	+ 4	58	27					
216	+ 1	270	210					
428	+ 2	477	297					
218	+ 9	222	74					
737	+ 4	70	42					

Underground lift men may

Change on week	1971 high	1971 low
320	330	230
325	426	327
328	477	297
323½	340	215
587	385	403
212	40	235
443	422	172½
329	490	667½
317	6	217½
131	3	416
342	11	301
322	6	356
541	7	552
222	1	236

E.T. SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

[illegible]

TEAS—Continued

Service is available to every Company desirous of exchanging throughout the United Kingdom	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
to the following Companies:	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	
1. The London and North Western Railway Co.	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	
2. The Great Western Railway Co.	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	
3. The Great Eastern Railway Co.	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	
4. The London and South Western Railway Co.	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	
5. The Southern Railway Co.	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	
6. The Midland Railway Co.	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	
7. The North Eastern Railway Co.	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	
8. The Yorkshire Railway Co.	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	
9. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Co.	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	
10. The Hull and Yorkshire Railway Co.	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	
11. The Hull and Lincolnshire Railway Co.	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	

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MAN OF THE WEEK

Big man in a big job

BY PAUL LEWIS

NO ONE could miss Paul Volcker easily in a crowd. President Nixon's international monetary trouble shooter stands at six feet seven inches high in his sober black socks, weighs 200 lbs and tops off this impressive frame with a pair of steady eyes, a slack jaw and a near bald crown to his head. Yet while he is distinctive enough as a man, the latest dollar crisis has shown that the U.S. Treasury Under Secretary for Monetary Affairs must now be rated quite an enigma when it comes to policy making.

Paul Volcker has held his present job since the Republicans first came to power some two and a half years ago. That he got the job at all is noteworthy since he is widely believed to be a Democrat. But the fact that he has kept his post despite the dollar's vicissitudes, and a change at the top of the Treasury underlines both his professional competence and his growing personal authority in Washington. As his lightning European tour showed this week, he remains the key man in the crisis so far as foreign dollar holders are concerned.

Proven ability

The usual explanation of Volcker's appointment is that President Nixon's first Treasury Secretary, David Kennedy, was uninterested in foreign affairs and simply wanted a cool man of proven ability to keep the dollar's international woes out of his office.

Volcker fitted the bill perfectly. Born in New Jersey in 1927, he graduated with high honours from Princeton and studied further at Harvard and the LSE in London. He had done several stints at the Treasury (including one as Deputy Under



Secretary for Monetary Affairs with Douglas Dillon) and wound up as a Vice President of Chase Manhattan Bank, thus satisfying the Republicans' penchant for practitioners over theorists.

All this still counted in his favour when John Connally took over the Treasury earlier this year—for as a Texan lawyer and political professional he too had little time for the metaphysics of the international monetary game. But an additional factor of importance was that Volcker had done his job superbly, accomplishing every mission with which he had been entrusted over the previous two years.

In some ways Volcker's activities over the past two and a half years resembled those of the British Treasury knights in the run-up to devaluation. But with one big difference. To get his way he, too, had to win the personal confidence of the charmed circles of international monetary managers—the Em-mings and Ossolows of this world—using the same subtle mixture of flattery, threats and sweet reason and appealing to everyone's hope that somehow things would be better to-morrow.

The vital distinction, of course, is that when in the end all the British promises came to nothing, the Government accepted the inevitable and devalued with as good a grace as it could muster.

The American approach has been very different. The import surcharge has gone on and the rest of the world has been told bluntly that the choice is between revaluing or facing the spectre of protectionism.

Key role

Where the Under-Secretary stands personally in all this is the central point in the enigma. Up to now he has always seemed by birth, education and temperament a partisan of international co-operation and the natural ally in the Administration of a civil service still deeply committed to free trade but fearful of the isolationist tendencies welling up inside the Republican party. Yet in Washington the view is that Volcker himself played a key role in planning and selling the President's "get tough with foreigners" approach. And if an educated East Coast like Paul Volcker can suffer a blinding conversion on the road to Europe, as it were, there can be no doubting the strength of feeling among the Middle Americans who dominate the Cabinet.

THE LEX COLUMN

Hard facts behind the uncertainty

The last week has seen hours of telephone time spent speculating on the outcome of the world currency situation, and ending, no doubt, with an elusive sense of frustration. It may be more useful to concentrate on the known data: these are that the U.S. has attacked inflation and tried to protect its balance of payments situation by the wage/price freeze is that it is a breakthrough and that both sort of control will probably remain after the 90 days.

As far as inflation is concerned, the presumption would be that the pre-election boom game has been restored. Why should that mean anything other than that the Dow will make a further attempt at the 1000 level?

As for inflation, here is a working hypothesis. The U.K. and the U.S. are attempting to control inflation. Both countries have historically high and perhaps rising unemployment rates. Their inflation levels are therefore past the peak and heading more or less sharply

lower. To the extent that this has not been recognised it would call for some major shifts in investment ratings.

We might suppose, then, that the post-war uptrend in long-term interest rates is well and truly over. It is now possible that significantly lower long interest rates will come to be regarded as consistent with present (or lower) share price levels. On the argument that the U.S. and the U.K. are undergoing an important shift towards thrift, we might bear in mind the possibility that the traditional relationship between interest rates and the economic cycle will be broken (or that the cycle will not be a traditional one). Finally, in looking at equity prices, we might expect a reshuffle between the inflation beneficiaries and sufferers.

Quinton Hazel

Quinton Hazel's accounts revise the 1971-72 forecast up from £1.85m. pre-tax at the time of last April's rights issue to at least £2.1m. against last year's

£1.62m., and show why a fund- ing operation was necessary with March bank overdrafts representing some 30 per cent. of shareholders' funds, and big expansion plans for the current year.

In terms of the available U.K. replacement market, Hazel must be close to saturation levels in cooling systems, and claims some two-thirds of the steering and suspension market. But with ambitious eyes on the EEC and EFTA markets, currently under 5 per cent. of sales, the group plans to double water pump output and increase steering system production by 50 per cent. over the year. Meantime the rapidly growing exhaust and transmission sides, each with under a third of the market, are also getting extra capacity, and the trend towards exhaust fitting depots, switching business away from the garage forecourts and the original equipment specialists, is another bonus. Finally the distribution depots, currently accounting for about 40 per cent. of group output against a third a year ago,

will be increased by two-thirds to 100 branches. Against this background, there can be few complaints about a prospective p/e of around 161 at 491p.

See also Page 24

John Peters

The upturn in furnishing demand felt by John Peters during the latter part of 1969-70 ran on into last year, and this is partly reflected by a more than trebled increase—£97,000—in the addition of deferred profit reserve. Thus with the clothing division performing equally well the upshot is a rise in profits of a fifth to £941,000 pre-tax on a sales rise in the region of 12 per cent. However, this is just as well for the shares have outperformed the stores sector this year by some 20 points, rising from a low of 781p to 183p.

At the net attributable profits level there is help from a substantial tax charge via pre-acquisition (furniture) losses, which pushes earnings up from 7p to 10p a share, or 8.7p fully taxed. That leaves a p/e of 15 (15 fully taxed) facing a

healthy start to 1971-72 in both divisions. In domestic furniture, for one, U.K. manufacturers' order books were some two-thirds higher at £38.1m. on April 30, though the current half might find removal expenses (the new clothing factory was occupied in June) a minor brake on clothing growth. As for credit trading, hire purchase turnover accounts for 30 per cent. of total furniture sales so there is scope here for a fair up-grading, given the mini-Budget's lead towards easier credit.

See also Page 16

L. Hammond

It has been clear for some time that 1970-71 would not be L. Hammond's year. Last March, the forecast was that profits would be "not less than" the 1969-70; for the calendar year 1970 insurance brokers' profits were up 18 per cent. on average while earnings rose 22 per cent. This week saw the resignation of a group managing director appointed last March; and yesterday brought the results, with

pre-tax profits down from £817,000 to £714,000, earnings from 7.1p to 6p a share, and the shares 18p lower at 100p, after 90p.

There are two areas of positive decline. First, there is a drop in investment income from £330,000 to £283,000 which has come as no surprise to the cognoscenti. Sheppards and Chase's last note on the company pointed out its relatively high proportion of year-end creditors to brokerage. With Lloyds and the composites pushing the brokers for faster settlement last year, and lower short term money market rates to boot, Hammond looked a natural for an investment income squeeze. The other area of decline is in underwriting, and in neither area does Hammond hold out much hope of recovery in the current year. Thus the forecast of an additional £50,000 pre-tax from sub-letting part of the head office is a relief, rather than an encouragement and Hammond's vulnerability to a bid is more important that its prospects to a p/e of 16.3.

See also Page 24

Lynch adamant on Dublin's right to concern over Ulster

BY DOMINICK J. COYLE

DUBLIN, August 20.

THE battle of words between the Dublin and London Prime Ministers over Northern Ireland continued to-day with another tough statement from Mr. Lynch, this time rejecting Mr. Heath's assertion that the troubles in the North were of no concern to the Government here.

On the contrary, said Mr. Lynch, any situation in which the lives and destinies of Irish people were at stake was of vital concern to him, and to his Government, and he made it plain that this concern would find positive expression in official support for the campaign of passive resistance planned for the North.

Explanations

The Irish premier clashed even more directly with Mr. Heath over his claim last night that many of the activities of armed terrorists in Northern Ireland "originate in, or are supported from, the Republic." This, said Mr. Lynch, was not so; the troubles in the North did not originate in the Republic.

The clash between the two men, who are already scheduled to meet in London on October 20, originated from Mr. Lynch's telegram to the Heath-Faulkner talks at Chequers. In effect, it demanded immediate discussions on a political settlement to the Northern crisis. The alternative, said Mr. Lynch, was that his Government would support the

passive resistance campaign being organised by Opposition groups in Northern Ireland.

Since news of this support was not essentially new—it had been exclusively forecast in the Financial Times last week—it is important to look elsewhere for an explanation as to why Mr. Lynch sought to intervene publicly and directly in the Chequers talks. The explanation is two-fold:

First, the diplomatic line between London and Dublin, concerning events in the North, has been practically blocked for many months now. Secondly, Mr. Lynch is himself under considerable pressure, both within the ranks of the ruling Fianna Fail party at Parliamentary level and also in the constituencies, for not being "tough enough on the British."

The first of these two reasons is by far the more important, although a great deal of publicity here has been directed at the second explanation, fears of the resignation of seven constituency officers in Mr. Lynch's own electoral district of Cork. These "dissidents," and many others throughout the country, have left Fianna Fail to join the new Republican Party being organised by one of Mr. Lynch's former Ministers, Mr. Kevin Boland.

But it is the diplomatic vacuum between the two capitals which has produced the really

acute frustration in Dublin. This was confirmed two weeks ago by Dr. P. J. Hillery, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in a special interview with the Financial Times, in which it was made abundantly clear that the Lynch Government felt it was now totally unable to influence British policy.

Following that interview, Dr. Hillery visited London for talks with the Home Secretary, Mr. Maudling. Neither side has since given any official indication as to the nature of these discussions, but I understand they amounted to "a dialogue of the deaf." That meeting, convinced the Government here that Britain saw the Northern crisis in a strictly military sense—law and order must be returned to the streets—and it was followed within 24 hours by Mr. Lynch's statement that "Stormont must go."

The Lynch-Heath confrontation is interpreted in newspapers here as an indication that Anglo-Irish diplomatic relations are now at their lowest point since the end of World War Two (when Churchill and de Valera clashed publicly over the Republic's neutrality in the war). In fact, the seeds of the clash were planted many months ago.

When Mr. Heath met Mr. Lynch at the United Nations in New York last October, the Irish side was left with the impression

that Britain accepted the fact that Dublin had a vested and legitimate interest in events in the North. This was seen as a continuation of Mr. Wilson's policy, but Ministers here now insist that "policy has changed under the Tories."

The present rift between Dublin and London is now almost complete. Mr. Lynch, and his senior officials, appear genuinely convinced that Northern Ireland is close to civil war. They claim to be equally satisfied that Mr. Heath and his colleagues in London do not appreciate the full significance of the crisis. As one official told me to-day: "Our warnings to London have proved right in the past, but they still will not accept our forecasts."

What is not accepted here, again primarily because of the bad state of diplomatic relations, is that Mr. Heath may very well believe that some fairly fundamental (but not necessarily constitutional) changes are necessary in Northern Ireland, with a view to involving the minority actively in the government, but that Britain is insisting that the terrorists must first be beaten on the streets.

F.T. share index hourly

Financial Times Reporter

The Financial Times Industrial Ordinary share index is now being calculated on an hourly basis. Since the beginning of 1968, it has been calculated four times daily, or prices ruling at 10.30 a.m., noon, 2.45 p.m. and the close.

From next Monday, the index will be made available seven times a day. Apart from the usual closing index, based on prices up to and sometimes beyond 5 p.m. depending on "after-hours" activity, calculations will be made every hour on the hour—from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.—during official Stock Exchange trading which starts at 9.30 a.m. and ends at 3.30 p.m.

The index figures will be made available to the GPO for incorporation in the F.T. Business News Summary telephone service on (01) 246 8026, and a record of the indices will appear in the daily Stock Indices table on the Stock Exchange Report page.

Truman: Institutions appear to hold key

BY SANDY McLACHLAN

BOTH Grand Metropolitan Hotels and Watney Mann were in the market again for Truman shares yesterday. Grand Met is believed to have picked up around 120,000 shares, and Watney possibly slightly more.

This leaves Grand Met with around 33 per cent. of Truman including the support of the Whitbread 11 per cent. Watney now holds 35 per cent. and with the claimed additional support of around 7 per cent. from the 16 per cent. Buxton family holdings, reckons to have a total support of getting on for 42 per cent.

Marginal

The casting vote now appears to lie with those institutional shareholders who have not yet sold out. These are believed to hold something over 10 per cent. of the Truman equity, and some at least can be expected to go to Grand Met before its offer closes on Monday afternoon.

In fact, last night Grand Met seemed to emerge as marginal favourite to win control of Truman, given its advantage of a closing date two days earlier than Watney, and the fact that the extra 15p a share in cash or loan stock which is offered under the "topping up" requirements of the Takeover Code, may only be available if Grand Met can go unconditional on Monday.

S. G. Warburg, were happy last night with acceptances so far received, although Guinness Mahon for Watney still think they are in with a good chance. However, with the balance between the two sides so even there is still the outside possibility that the battle may end in deadlock. In almost every bid, some 5 per cent. or more of shares never come out at all, and this proportion may be greater in this case since the climax is right in the middle of the holiday season.

Shares in both Watney and Truman remained unchanged yesterday at 123p and 259p respectively. Grand Met slipped back 3p to 181p partly in reaction to Thursday's announcement of the extra 15p a share for Truman, but partly also because of its apparent fractional advantage.

PIT BREAKS BRITISH RECORD

The 650 pitmen at Silverdale Colliery, Newcastle, Staffs., have set up a British coal-face productivity record of 1,674 cwt a man-shift. The previous best was 1,513.5 cwt at Riddings Drift Mine, South Kirkby, Yorks, last year.

UCS: new moves within two weeks

BY ANDREW HARGRAVE, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

GLASGOW, August 20.

SWIFT Government moves on Upper Clyde Shipbuilders are expected over the next fortnight following yesterday's surprise visit to Glasgow by Sir John Eden, Minister for Industry.

Sir John left Glasgow this morning after a round of talks which ended at 1 a.m. and which included 31 hours with Scottish trade union leaders and Upper Clyde shop stewards as well as two sessions with the UCS liquidator, Mr. Robert C. Smith.

While the Government is sticking to its formula for restructuring shipbuilding on the Upper Clyde, this is still stoutly opposed by the unions—there now appears to be both a sense of urgency and a willingness to modify it in the light of events since Mr. John Davies, Secretary for Trade and Industry announced it in the Commons three weeks ago.

First, the "embryo Board" of a new Government-backed company based on the Govan-Linthouse complex is likely to be announced early next month. The Board, first mentioned by Sir John here yesterday, will form the nucleus of the company and gradually take over from the liquidator as UCS is being wound up. This will take place before the formal setting up of the company which requires legislation.

The Board will be able to initiate moves for new orders (something the liquidator cannot do) and also negotiate with the unions on future co-operation. The ships now point to an operation not necessarily limited to the modest size and scale indicated by Mr. Davies' "four wise men"—a total of 2,500 workers and staff producing six ships a year.

Contracts

Second, contracts for 13 ships not yet laid down at the Upper Clyde yards and suspended momentarily when UCS went into liquidation on June 14 will at last be taken in hand. A meeting between Mr. Nicholas Ridley, Parliamentary Secretary at the Department for Trade and Industry and the shipowners concerned is to take place next Friday.

Third, a whole range of proposals to acquire the Clydebank yard and possibly others may be made by Mr. Archibald Kelly, the Clydeside industrialist who owns the Liffey Dockyard in Dublin, and who met Sir John on Tuesday. There seemed little hope of saving the Clydebank and Scotstoun yards when Mr.

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Weather

U.K. TO-DAY
Most districts will be dry with sunny spells after some fog patches at first.

The N. and W. of Scotland and N. Ireland will be rather cloudy with occasional drizzle. S.E. parts of Britain will start cloudy with occasional rain in places.

Temperatures generally will be near or rather above normal.

London: S.E. and E. Fog; E. Anglia; E. Midlands
Cloudy and misty with rain in places at first; sunny intervals later. Wind N. light or moderate. Max. 20C (68F).

Cent. S. and S.W. Eng; W. Midlands: Channel Isles; S. Wales: Rather cloudy in places at first but mostly dry and sunny. Wind N.W. to N. light or moderate. Max. 23C (73F).

N. Wales: N.W. Cent. N. and N.E. Lakes: Lake District; Isle of Man: Borders; E. and S.W. Scot: Glasgow
Some fog patches at first, but dry with sunny periods later. Wind light variable. Max. 20C (73F).

Edinburgh: Cent. Highlands: Dunsyre
Fog patches at first, then mostly sunny. Wind S. to S.W. light. Max. 23C (73F).

Cathness: Argyll; N.W. Scot: Orkney; N. Ireland
Rather cloudy with occasional drizzle, but some bright intervals. Hill and coastal fog patches. Wind S. light or moderate. Max. 21C (69F).

Mostly cloudy; occasional rain. Hill and coastal fog patches. Wind S. light or moderate. Max. 21C (69F).

Outlook: Mostly dry and warm in S. and E. A little rain at times in N. and W. but some bright intervals and near normal.

Mostly cloudy; occasional rain. Hill and coastal fog patches. Wind S. light or moderate. Max. 21C (69F).

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